

Yandell, (L. P.)
ADDRESS

ON

AMERICAN MEDICAL LITERATURE,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS,

AT

PHILADELPHIA,

September 8, 1876.

BY

LUNSFORD PITTS YANDELL, M.D.,
OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

[Extracted from the Transactions.]



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A D D R E S S.

I HAVE attempted in this Address to give some account of the books which have been written by the physicians of the new world, since the settlement of America by white men. The history embraces a period of nearly two hundred years, and includes the names of as many authors, and the titles of more than as many publications. Restricted as I am, both in space and time, my notices are necessarily brief. As to most of them, they are nothing more, indeed, than a catalogue of names and titles. But it occurred to me that I could not in any other way so well meet the wants of the profession in an address like this, as by presenting a full list of our medical works in the order in which they have appeared, so that we may see, and that those who shall come after us may learn, what the medical men of America have done in the first century of our national existence. My references are confined almost exclusively to books, but occasionally I have noticed pamphlets and articles in Transactions of Societies, which appeared to me to possess unusual value. To do justice to the medical literature of America, would require something more than a single discourse. All that is proposed in this, is to give an outline of the subject; and, with all the pains I have taken to make my list complete, I can hardly hope that it will not be found chargeable with many omissions.

The Literature of Medicine had acquired but little extension, and was still expanding slowly in Great Britain, when the first emigrants for America left her shores. Harvey was just then announcing his grand discovery of the circulation of the blood. Sydenham had not been born, and it was half a century afterward that his works, conceived in the true spirit of the Baconian philosophy, and the standing glory of English medical literature, made their appearance to put a new countenance upon the Science of Medicine. Mead and Cheselden were born more than half a century afterward. The writings of the Hunters, and of Cullen, appeared only as the Colonies were ready to set up in the world for themselves; and the discoveries in chemistry which imparted to it the character of a science, were made by Black and Priestley on the eve of our great political revolution.

It is not surprising, then, that hardly anything was accomplished in the way of authorship by the physicians of the Colonies during the first century of their settlement. For fifty years nothing at all was published by them, of which we have any record. The first essay came out in 1677, bearing the title "A Brief Guide in the Smallpox and Measles." It was published in the province of Massachusetts, thirty years before the first newspaper was issued in America, and more than forty years before one was established in Philadelphia. Its author, Dr. Thomas Thacher, as

was not uncommon in the new settlements at that day, united in his person the two professions of divine and practitioner of medicine. He was the first minister of the Old South Church, in Boston, and was accounted "a great divine" as well as "a learned physician," who, preaching and practising "to general approbation" as long as he lived, had his name worthily perpetuated in the *Magnalia* of the famous Cotton Mather. His unpretending essay, composed especially for the instruction of the people, seems to have remained more than half a century without a successor. It was not until 1720 that the next tract relating to medicine appeared. Dr. Cadwallader Colden, in that year, published an account of the climate and diseases of New York, founded on his own observations and experience; and from that time medical publications followed in quicker succession.

Three essays respecting inoculation for smallpox were published within a few years of each other, by three Boston physicians. Dr. Nathaniel Williams, one of the three, was, like Thacher, both physician and preacher; another was Dr. Benjamin Colman; and the third was the celebrated Zabdiel Boylston, who was the first physician to make trial of the hazardous practice in the new world, and who narrowly escaped falling a martyr to it. Pharmacy and the Medical Botany of the new territory, attracted the attention of its physicians at an early day; and treatises on the preparation of drugs, the *polygala senega*, and the great water dock, were written by Dr. Howard, Dr. Tennent, and Dr. Colden. Dr. John Clayton, of Virginia, produced, in 1743, a *Flora Virginica*, so highly esteemed that an edition of his work was issued some years afterward in Leyden. An essay on fevers was written by Dr. Walton in 1732; one on scarlatina, by Dr. Douglas in 1736; one on the iliac passion, by Dr. Cadwalader in 1740; and one on yellow fever, and a second on the causes of the variety of colors in people of different climates, by Dr. John Mitchell in 1743. Dr. Lining also wrote an account of yellow fever, in which he started the idea, never before advanced, that persons who have suffered with the fever are not subject to a second attack.

Douglas, in his paper, was the first to recommend calomel in scarlet fever. Cadwalader had the good sense to condemn the use of quicksilver and drastic purgatives in lead colic, which he described as the "iliac passion," and advised opiates as preparatory remedies in that affection. The letters of Mitchell on yellow fever are of peculiar interest, as having led to the heroic practice in the disease for which Dr. Rush was noted at a subsequent day. Dr. Chalmers, of South Carolina, published a paper on tetanus in 1754. Dr. Bond, of Philadelphia, published, in 1759, an essay on the use of bark in scrofula; and in 1760 Dr. John Bard, of New York, made public the facts in a case of extra-uterine fœtation which had come under his notice. Dr. Bard, the same year, also published a valuable essay on the nature and causes of "Malignant Pleurisy," as it prevailed on Long Island in the winter of 1749, a disease since recognized in the epidemics of typhoid pneumonia which have more than once swept over our continent. In 1769 some letters on malignant sore throat were published by Dr. Ogden, of New York; and Dr. Kearsly, of the same place, sent the same year a paper to the Gentleman's Magazine, at London, on angina maligna. The thesis of Dr. John Moultrie, of Charleston, the first graduate in medicine from South Carolina at Edinburgh, was printed in 1749. It described yellow fever as he had seen it in his native city. The theses of Morgan, Shippen, Kuhn, Rush, Bard, Kissam, and other American students, were printed at Edinburgh from 1749 to 1776.

Some of these essays, treating of the diseases incident to the new world, deserve to be rescued from the oblivion that has overtaken them, and if collected would form a volume acceptable to the profession. But it is to be remarked that they were all issued in a fugitive form; many of them treated of subjects the interest of which has long since passed away; most of them were brief papers, such as would now make articles in our medical journals, and nearly all are now wholly inaccessible. At most, they can be regarded as nothing more than an introduction to the medical literature which in the course of the century succeeding them has become so voluminous.

The medical literature of America may with truth be said to have commenced with the century whose years we have just numbered. Just as it was about to open, Dr. John Jones, of New York, foreseeing the need of surgical knowledge likely soon to arise, prepared, in the autumn of 1775, and in anticipation of the impending struggle, a little volume on wounds and fractures. It is the first, in time, of American works on surgery. Its claims to merit were small, if regarded as an original work, since it was little more than a compilation; but the compiler was a surgeon familiar with the art about which he was writing, and his volume proved highly serviceable to our inexperienced and young surgeons during the war. In 1776, an able work was published in two volumes, on the Climate and Diseases of South Carolina, by Dr. Lionel Chalmers, of Charleston.

But ten years before this time, an event occurred which marks an epoch in the medical history of the country. I refer to the creation of a public school of medicine. This, more than any other movement recorded in our history, has shaped our medical literature and contributed to its growth and development. The school was inaugurated under circumstances that invest it with uncommon interest. The address delivered on the occasion was published, and is extant in our libraries. Among the Trustees of the College, who weighed the arguments urged for the erection in it of a Medical Department, was Benjamin Franklin, President of the Board. Dr. John Morgan and Dr. William Shippen, its founders and earliest professors, were medical scholars such as might rightfully aspire to lay the foundations of medical education in a new empire. They had prepared themselves for teaching by long and laborious study. An imposing assemblage of the citizens of Philadelphia was present to witness the commencement in their college, and to hear Dr. Morgan's address on the institution of medical schools in America.

"It is now," he said, "more than fifteen years since I began the study of medicine, and I have arrived at the middle age of life endeavoring to lay up treasures of knowledge." And he continued, in words that proved prophetic, "Perhaps this medical institution, the first of its kind in America, though small in its beginning, may receive constant increase of strength, and annually exert new vigor. It may collect a number of young persons of more than ordinary abilities, and so improve their knowledge as to spread its reputation to distant parts. By sending those abroad duly qualified, it may give birth to other institutions of a similar nature calculated to spread the light of knowledge through the whole American continent wherever inhabited."

In the great concourse of "respectable citizens" gathered to hear this discourse, was a young student of medicine who was destined to become not only the great luminary of the school, but the foremost of American medical teachers and writers. Benjamin Rush had been for three years

a student under Dr. John Redman, in Philadelphia, translating Hippocrates, and making memoranda on yellow fever and other current epidemics of the time. Three years later he was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, having defended a thesis *De Concoctione Ciborum in Ventriculo*. Returning home he was elected, in August, 1769, when under twenty-four years of age, Professor of Chemistry in the Philadelphia Medical College, now the University of Pennsylvania.

With Rush, to teach was to write. The motto on which he was in the habit of insisting most strongly to his pupils was, *legere sine calamo est somnere*; and he studied his profession with pen in hand, recording observations which are still of value to writers on yellow fever. The year after his election he appeared before the public as author of what he styled "Sermons" to young men on temperance and health. Three years later he was invited to deliver the annual oration before the American Philosophical Society, of which Franklin and Jefferson were members. He chose as his subject "The Natural History of Medicine among the Indians of North America, and a comparative view of their diseases and remedies with those of Civilized Nations." This oration makes the first paper in his "Inquiries," the first volume of which was issued in 1788. No one can read it without a feeling of profound respect for the talents and scholarship of its author. It is philosophical in tone, rich in original observations, and written in a simple, graceful style. The volume to which it forms the introduction raised its author at once to a position among the leading medical writers of the time. Of the other papers in the volume, one is devoted to pulmonary consumption, and it is interesting to remark that in his treatment of that disease Dr. Rush anticipates the therapeutics of the present day. He gives a graphic description of "breakbone fever," in which he was the first to note the unwonted depression of spirits which attends the disorder. For scarlet fever, on which he has a chapter, he thought that he had found a specific in calomel, which he believed to be as sure a remedy for croup, also, as bark is for intermittent fever.

A second volume of "Inquiries" followed on the 4th of July, 1793. Another oration before the American Philosophical Society forms the first paper in this volume. Its subject is "The Influence of Physical Causes on the Moral Faculties." The titles of his orations indicate the decided turn of his mind to philosophical disquisitions; the matter composing them proves how closely and widely he had observed, and how profoundly he had reflected on, the subjects of discussion. A second paper of great interest in this volume is an inquiry into the causes of the increase of bilious and intermittent fevers in Pennsylvania. A third relates to pulmonary consumption, to which he returns in his second volume to insist, with greater emphasis, on the utility of iron, cold baths, and horseback exercise, in the early stage of the disease. Another chapter is given to an inquiry into the state of the body and mind in old age, with observations on its diseases and their remedies. It is, perhaps, the best in the volume. It is a charming article, and will compare most favorably with any essay on the subject to be found in any literature.

Dr. Rush's third volume was issued in 1794, and is taken up with a history of the yellow fever, which ravaged Philadelphia the year before. It will be read, it is safe to say, while yellow fever continues to scourge the human race. No more graphic account of a pestilence was ever

written by a medical man. It possesses all the charm of a personal narrative. The author reveals the state of his feelings under the varying aspects of the epidemic. "Heaven alone," he says, "bore witness to the anguish of my soul in this awful situation," baffled in every attempt to stop the ravages of the disease. And when, after reading the manuscript account of the fever by Dr. Mitchell, he became successful, he says: "Never before did I experience such sublime joy as I now felt in contemplating the success of my remedies. It repaid me for the toils and studies of my life. The conquest of this formidable disease was not the effect of accident, nor of the application of a single remedy; but it was the triumph of a principle in medicine. The reader will not wonder at this joyful state of my mind when I add a short extract from my notebook, dated the 10th of September: 'Thank God, out of a hundred patients whom I have visited or prescribed for this day, I have lost none.'"

The principle by which Dr. Rush was conducted to these happy results, was that the debility attending this malignant fever is apparent merely—an *indirect* debility—in which the abstraction of blood and evacuation by purgatives tend to raise the pulse and increase the strength of the patient. His practice consequently was to bleed again and again, and give calomel and jalap in active doses, reducing heat by cold water. Finding the dose of ten grains of each drug too slow in its operation, he increased the quantity of jalap to fifteen grains. But the pleasure derived from his great triumph was attended by a serious drawback; his practice was denounced in unmeasured and bitter terms by many of his professional brethren. The effect of this was to excite such a prejudice in the public mind against his mode of treatment that he found it difficult to carry it out. Two of his colleagues, Kuhn and Wistar, united in its condemnation. Currie, a practitioner and writer of note and influence, declared in the public prints of Philadelphia that it "could not fail of being certain death." The report was started by some enemy that Dr. Rush was insane, and he relates that one of his former patients, a lady, "who had believed the report, expressed her surprise at perceiving no deviation from his ordinary manner in a sick room." It was even proposed by some of his excited fellow citizens to "drum him out of the city."

The terms in which Dr. Rush referred to the conduct of his enemies, under these trying circumstances, are worthy to be reproduced in this narrative, as illustrating the magnanimity of his nature. He says: "I allude to these slanders now only for the sake of declaring, in this public manner, that I most heartily forgive them; and that if I discovered at any time an undue sense of their unkindness and cruelty, it was not because I felt myself injured by them, but because I was sure they would irreparably injure my fellow citizens, by lessening their confidence in the only remedies that I believed to be effectual in the reigning epidemic. I commit the calumnies which have followed my opinions and practices in this fever to the dust."

The fourth and last volume of the "Inquiries" was issued in 1796; and in this the author took occasion to announce that he was engaged in preparing a work on Diseases of the Mind. This volume opens with an account of another epidemic of yellow fever, by which Philadelphia was visited in 1794. Dr. Rush contends earnestly for the doctrine, so unpalatable to the citizens, that the fever was of local origin, and depended upon accumulations of filth which it was in their power to

remove, even going so far as to say that he believed the time would come when municipal authorities would be held responsible for the spread of all such fevers. "Seasons and climates," he continues, "are not necessarily sickly. The sun would seldom strike by day, nor the moon by night, were pains taken to prevent the accumulation and putrefaction of those matters which occasion malignant fevers." He believed, when first asserting this opinion, that it was new, but, discovering his error, he was careful to state that it had been advanced by Dr. Thomas Bond, as early as 1766, in a clinical lecture at the Pennsylvania Hospital. At one time Dr. Rush regarded the fever as contagious, but he candidly admits that he was convinced by the arguments of his pupil, Dr. Charles Caldwell, that "the pestilence is devoid of any such power."

One of the papers in this volume is an inquiry into "the proximate cause of fever," which he found in spasm of the extreme bloodvessels; but the leading paper is a defence of bloodletting, which brings out all his power and eloquence as an advocate. It is written with the earnestness and spirit of one who felt himself engaged in establishing a great truth; who believed that he was contending for a principle that involved the interests of his race. While candid in its statements, his defence is heroic in spirit, and its influence in popularizing the use of the lancet was felt in every part of our country. The practice is now spoken of as "atrocious." There can be no doubt that bloodletting was carried to excess by Rush and his followers, but it admits of a doubt whether the practitioners of the present day have not run to the other extreme.

In this volume, and in connection with bloodletting, Dr. Rush repeats a belief which he had before expressed, that the pains of labor would be annulled by the discovery of an anaesthetic. This was no mere guess, but an opinion reached by a process of induction. "I was encouraged to cherish this hope," he says, "by having known delivery to take place in one instance during a paroxysm of epilepsy; and having heard of another during a fit of drunkenness in a woman attended by Dr. Church, in both of which there was neither consciousness nor recollection of pain."

In 1798, Dr. Rush published a volume of "Essays; Literary, Moral, and Philosophical," which had previously appeared in the magazines of the day. It is in one of these that he contends against the ancient languages as a necessary part of the education of students of medicine. In 1801 he added to his other works a volume of Introductory Lectures, in one of which he unfolds his views on the unity of disease. Nosology appeared to him mischievous, as directing the attention of practitioners to the name rather than the character of the disease; and in his lectures he inveighed warmly against it. Rising from his chair, to give greater emphasis to his words, he would exclaim, *Nosologia delenda est!* But this question, in which he was able to create a lively interest while he was the popular teacher of the period, has long since been put to rest. His great work on Diseases of the Mind appeared in 1812, only a short time before the death of the author, which took place in 1813.

This work, the result of a lifetime of careful observation and honest inquiry, is, of all his writings, the one now most read and most frequently quoted by medical authors. Nearly all who have followed him on psychological medicine, refer to it as one of the most instructive of the treatises on that subject, and as especially rich in facts. Adopting the enlightened views which Pinel had just promulgated in France, Dr.

¹ Inquiries, vol. iv. p. 376, 3d ed.

Rush gave an impetus to the revolution which this country has witnessed in the management of the insane; and it is his noble eulogy that he aided "in opening the prison doors of the maniac, unbarred his noisome dungeon, and knocked the shackles from his limbs, substituting moral treatment for brute force, and love for fear."¹ He saw, as the great French alienist had pointed out, that the law of kindness is the true one in the management of lunatics: his work gave currency to the novel idea, and, as a result of the light diffused abroad by him, the condition of the insane in all our asylums has been one of steady improvement from his day to our own.

In the century that has passed away since Rush appeared as an author, no one of all the medical writers of America has attained to the popularity which he enjoyed, nor exerted so wide and lasting an influence on the professional mind of his country. During the generation in which he lived he was more generally read and followed, not only than any other medical author of this country, but than all our other writers on medicine put together. Nor is it likely that his name or his works will be forgotten. His writings form, as a whole, a body of philosophical medicine—defective, indeed, in many points—but exhibiting a breadth of view, an originality of thought and conception, an accuracy and extent of observation, and a terseness, vivacity, and clearness of style, that compare well with the best medical works of their period.²

A host of minor writers on yellow fever was brought out by the epidemics, as they appeared toward the close of the last century in our Atlantic cities. Among these was Dr. William Currie, of Philadelphia, whose writings on that subject were only less voluminous than those of Rush. He was an independent thinker, a careful investigator of the diseases of the country, and a faithful observer and recorder of facts; but he is likely to be longest remembered for the violence with which he assailed Rush's doctrines and practice. It is, however, due to his memory to record that he retracted publicly, soon after making the harsh strictures on his great contemporary.³

¹ Dr. Edward Jarvis.

² Before the first volume of Rush's *Inquiries* was written, Samuel Stanhope Smith, D.D., President of Princeton College, had published a small volume on "The Causes of the Variety of Complexion and Figure in the Human Species," which was republished, with notes, in Edinburgh, by a professor of that university. Dr. Caldwell reviewed it with great acrimony, urging the insufficiency of the causes assigned to produce the existing varieties. The question has been much discussed since that day, but remains still in an unsatisfactory position. In 1781, Dr. James Tilton published a short treatise on the Diseases and Management of Military Hospitals. Dr. Samuel Tenney published, in 1783, an Account of the Saratoga Springs. In 1786, Dr. Matthew Wilson produced an essay on the diseases arising from the air, contending that most of them are generated by miasmata. The same year he wrote for Atkins's American Magazine an account of a malignant fever which prevailed in Sussex County, Delaware, in 1774; and also an account of the severe winter of 1779, which appeared in the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. In 1788, the Medical Society of the County of New Haven, Conn., published a volume of Transactions, which was much quoted by British writers. In 1793, part of a volume of Transactions was published by the Philadelphia College of Physicians, which, after many years, began to issue a quarterly summary, and now publishes annual volumes. Dr. Charles McLean wrote a work, in 1797, to prove that pestilential diseases were dependent, in all cases, upon certain altered conditions of the atmosphere, and were never communicated by contagion. An oration delivered at the University of Virginia, by M. Coste, Medical Director of the French forces, in 1782, forming a volume of 103 pages, 8vo., was printed at Leyden in 1783. Dr. John Leigh, of Virginia, obtained in 1785 the Harveian prize for an essay on the properties of opium, which was printed at Edinburgh in 1786.

³ Dr. Currie published, in 1792, a historical account of the climate of the United States. In 1798 he wrote on the causes and cure of remitting or bilious fevers. In 1800 he wrote

Few of our authors on yellow fever are entitled to more honorable mention than Dr. Richard Bayley, of New York, who before writing on this subject had acquired a reputation abroad by his researches in membranous croup. His history of yellow fever in New York is one of the most graphic and instructive produced in our country, and affords evidence of powers which might have placed him in the front rank of our writers, had he lived to develop them; but his fearlessness in visiting the localities in which the epidemic raged, brought on an attack of the fever, which terminated his life just as his labors promised the greatest usefulness to his profession. Another writer, who afterwards rose to great distinction, was Dr. Charles Caldwell. He began to write on yellow fever while yet a student of medicine, having seen much of the epidemic in Philadelphia, in 1793. Of those who contended against its contagiousness, and for its domestic origin, he was among the first and the most earnest. He also wrote against the expediency of quarantine. Dr. John Beale Davidge, at that time a young physician in Baltimore, was also an early writer on yellow fever. He published a paper on that subject in 1798, in which he contended for the doctrine that the fever originated in the places where it prevailed, believing, when he asserted it, that it had not before been taught in this country.¹

Our medical journalism commenced in New York towards the close of the last century. The first journal was a reprint, in 1790, of the *Journal de Médecine Militaire*, annotated from the French by Joseph Brown. The *Medical Repository* made its appearance on the 26th of July, 1797, under the editorial care of Dr. Elihu H. Smith, Dr. Edward Miller, and Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill. Its origin marks an important era in our medical history. Its editors were men of marked ability. Dr. Mitchill was especially noted as a theorist, but he was admirable for the extent and diversity of his attainments, and in versatility of powers had no superior among the medical men of his day. Dr. Miller was an original thinker, an acute observer, of solid judgment and learning, and a pleasing writer. Dr. Smith, the projector of the work, and the most gifted of the remarkable triumvirate, fell a victim to yellow fever in the twenty-seventh year of his age, but not until after he had achieved a national reputation. Among the productions

a sketch of the rise and progress of the yellow fever of 1798 in Philadelphia. In 1811 he wrote a treatise on the diseases most prevalent in the United States at different seasons of the year; and in 1815 he published a synopsis of the theories and doctrines of disease. Other writers were the following: Devezé, who has the distinction of having been the first American writer to declare against the contagiousness of yellow fever; Cathrall, who wrote, in 1796, on the synocha maligna of Philadelphia; Dr. J. O'Reilly, who, in 1798, wrote on the "Contagious Epidemic Yellow Fever" of that city; Seaman, who wrote, in 1796, on the yellow fever of New York; and Dr. Samuel Brown, who, in 1797 and 1800, wrote on the yellow fever of Boston. Noah Webster also published, in 1796, two volumes on Pestilential Diseases, forming a valuable work of reference. Among other writers at that period were Hardie, Tytler, Pfaff, Hosack, and Davis. J. Henry C. Helmuth, of Philadelphia, wrote a tract in German "for the reflecting Christian," in which he presented the subject in its religious bearings. Flirth, a few years later, published a number of experiments made to determine the question whether the disease could be communicated from person to person. One of these experiments was to swallow the black vomit.

¹ To the list of our early writers on yellow fever, the following names are to be added: Matthew Carey, Pascalis, Condé and Folwell, Chadwell, Maulsby, Rushton, Addoms, Martin, Monson, and Monson, Jr. The various publications relating to the early epidemics of yellow fever on our continent would form a curious body of medical literature, which it would be interesting to study. While the discussions were going on about the nature and treatment of yellow fever, Drs. Yates and McLean found time to write a volume of a hundred and fifty pages on the Brunonian theory of Life.

left behind him to testify to his genius, is a poetical introduction to Darwin's "Botanic Garden." The Repository, under these gentlemen's guidance, acquired great popularity and influence, reaching every part of the country, and receiving contributions from its best writers. Among other articles were Physick's report of his autopsies in yellow fever, and the papers of Stearns and Prescott announcing the oxytocic properties of ergot. In the hands of numerous editors the Repository continued until it reached its twenty-third volume.¹

In 1805, Dr. Caldwell, who had become widely and favorably known by a translation of Blumenbach's physiology, and by his writings on yellow fever and quarantine, issued a volume of Select Theses, written by graduates of the University of Pennsylvania, with a preliminary discourse and appendix from his own pen. A second volume followed in the succeeding year, the appendix containing a paper by the editor on the "vitality of the blood," one of his favorite doctrines. It was his purpose to continue the work annually, but the trustees, by the advice of the Medical Faculty of the University, saw fit to relieve candidates of the burden of printing their theses, and in consequence Caldwell's publication fell through. Strangely enough, he looked upon the action of the faculty in this matter as "a measure of vengeance and mischief" to himself.

Dr. Caldwell was one of the most prolific of American medical authors. His writings were fragmentary, consisting of essays, reviews, and discourses, scattered through the literary magazines and medical journals of the day, but if collected would make not less than ten octavo volumes of a thousand pages each. Almost always in a controversy on some point in medicine or medico-theology, he was seldom lost to the public eye from the time he entered his profession till near the close of his life. He was a man of varied attainments, but his learning was remarkable for extension of surface, rather than accuracy or depth; and, while he wrote on a great variety of subjects, it cannot be said that he added much to the stock of medical science. It was a peculiarity of his mental constitution that he continually set himself to advocate opinions and systems generally rejected, and to assail the most cherished beliefs of men. "Better occasionally broach startling error, than deal continually in time-beaten truisms," was one of his maxims; and it may be said that he wasted his fine powers, as another great scholar declared he had wasted a life, "in levities and strenuous inanities." Many of his best years were devoted to the exposition and defence of phrenology, which, towards the close of his career, was superseded by mesmerism and spiritualism. Such was

¹ The New York Medical Repository was followed, in 1803, by a periodical at Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Medical and Physical Journal, edited by Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton; but this contained too much botany and zoology to suit the profession, and it expired at the end of the third volume. It was succeeded, in 1806, by the Medical Museum, under the editorial care of Dr. John R. Coxe, which was continued seven years. In 1808 a journal was started at Baltimore, by Dr. Tobias Watkins, the Baltimore Medical and Physical Recorder, which had a brief career, and gave place to another in that city, of still shorter duration, edited by Dr. Nathaniel Potter, under the name of the Medical and Philosophical Lyceum. In 1810 the American Philosophical Register was set on foot by Dr. Hosack and Dr. J. W. Francis, at New York, its fourth volume containing the famous letters of Dr. Mitchell to Dr. Franklin on yellow fever, communicated by Dr. Rush to Dr. Hosack. The Eclectic Repository and Analytical Review was started at Philadelphia in 1811, by Drs. Otto, Hewson, James, and other physicians of that city, and reached its tenth volume, when it was discontinued. Among its notable papers is a brief account of McDowell's renowned operations for diseased ovaria. In 1812 the New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery was established by a number of the physicians of Boston.

his assurance of the truth of organology, that he advised the use of the trephine to the head in mania, over the part of the brain indicated by phrenology as affected. He wrote an analysis of fever which would have possessed value if it had been the fruit of clinical observation; but it was purely a work of the closet. As a writer of critical reviews, he was one of the readiest, most affluent, and most formidable of his day; in tone somewhat too domineering and dogmatic, and in language often unnecessarily bitter, but always vigorous and independent. His most elaborate work was an autobiography published since his death, which has added nothing to his fame. Exhibiting, throughout, the temper which caused him to suspect his old friends and teachers in the University of Pennsylvania of framing "a measure of vengeance" against him, he is everywhere unjust to the memory of his contemporaries.

About the beginning of the present century, the first works on systematic medicine began to appear, nearly all up to this time having been monographs. In 1801, Dr. B. S. Barton published some contributions for an essay towards a *Materia Medica* of the United States, having commenced in 1798 to make collections for such a work. In 1803, he issued a work on the Elements of Botany, with some references of a desultory character to vegetable physiology. Dr. J. R. Coxe, in 1806, compiled a Dispensatory, which in the scarcity of medical books at the time proved of much service to practitioners.

In 1807, Dr. Samuel Bard, of New York, gave to the profession a small but admirably written volume on the Science and Art of Midwifery. His "compendium" was the *rule-mecum* of our accoucheurs for more than a quarter of a century, and is still quoted with respect by writers on obstetrics. Its sound judgment and good sense made it a safe guide, and the clearness and simplicity of its language adapted it to the capacity of midwives, in whose hands, when it appeared, was most of the obstetrical practice of the country.¹ In 1810, Dr. James Thacher prepared a valuable Dispensatory, on a plan which had been proposed by the Medical Society of Massachusetts for securing uniformity in the Pharmacopæias of the United States; this work remained long in use by the profession.

In 1811 appeared the System of Anatomy, by Dr. Caspar Wistar, of the University of Pennsylvania, which was the popular text-book in American medical schools for more than thirty years. It passed through nine editions, enriched and enlarged by successive editors, its author having died shortly after the publication of the second volume. Wistar was the first writer on anatomy to describe accurately the extremities of the ethmoid bone, which previously had been supposed to belong to the sphenoid, and hence they have ever since been known as "the pyramids

¹ Dr. George C. Shattuck, in 1808, published three dissertations on Boylston prize-questions for 1806 and 1807. They treated of Diseases of the Skin, Mortification, and Bilary Concretions. Dr. Edward Cutbush, of the U. S. Navy, wrote in 1808, a work on Preserving the Health of Sailors and Soldiers. In 1808 and 1811, the monograph of Dr. Bayley on Membranous Croup appeared in the Medical Repository. The true nature of the complaint had been pointed out by him as early as 1781 in a letter to Dr. Hunter. In 1809 Dr. J. C. Warren published a valuable paper on Organic Diseases of the Heart. Dr. Nathan Strong, in 1810, wrote a treatise on Spotted Fever, which was followed the next year by papers on the same subject by Dr. North, Dr. Woodward, Dr. Bester, and Dr. Fish. Dr. Hugh Williamson, in 1811, published Observations on the Climate of different parts of America, to which he added a history of North Carolina, including an account of its diseases in 1812.

of Wistar.¹ His volumes contained little that was original, but the matter was presented in a shape highly convenient to students, and it is not too much to say that their publication marked an era in the history of American authorship.

Of scarcely inferior popularity at the time, and of the greatest value to the profession of our country, was another work which proceeded from the same institution a few years later. The "Elements of Surgery," by Dr. John Syng Dorsey, in two volumes, appeared in 1813. The author was a young man, and could not claim to have had much personal experience in surgery, but that of his distinguished uncle, Physick, then, as long afterward, the leading surgeon of the United States, was at his command with which to enrich his work. It was written in a simple, graceful, flowing style, with special reference to the needs of students, and so well did the author succeed in his design that his book was at one time adopted in the University of Edinburgh as a text-book. That place it assumed at once in our schools, and maintained until later systems supplanted it. Nor was it less prized by the profession as a work of reference. It passed through four editions, two after the author's death, which occurred while he was still young. Had he lived to discipline and mature the high gifts with which he was endowed by Nature, he would have attained undoubtedly to great eminence as an author. He indulged occasionally in poetical effusions, some of which, says Professor Gross, his biographer, "embody uncommon vigor of thought and power of description." Something of the glow of poetry may be detected in his professional writings.

At all times, while acknowledging his indebtedness to foreign surgeons, Dorsey does not hesitate to criticize their prejudices and practice. Thus, in the preface to his Elements he says: "Great Britain and France have been foremost in the cultivation of modern surgery, but their deficiency in philosophical courtesy and candor has in some instances greatly retarded its progress. To illustrate this remark it will be sufficient to state that the doctrine of adhesion, so ably developed in England, has been shamefully neglected in France; and that French surgery in fractures finds no advocates in Britain. Some of the best writings of Desault have never been translated into the English language, and those of Hunter are unknown or disregarded throughout the continent of Europe. This spirit of hostile rivalship, extending from the field of battle to that of science, cannot fail to exert a pernicious influence on practical surgery; a truth too palpable to escape the observation of any foreigner who visits a European hospital. An American, in walking their wards, sees with surprise in London a fractured thigh rudely bound in bundles of straw, and the patient discharged limping with a crooked limb. In the French capital he witnesses an amputation, and is disgusted with the officious zeal with which the surgeon crams a handful of lint between the stump and the flap which covers it, with an express design to prevent their adhesion."

While the University of Pennsylvania was contributing thus liberally to our literature, the University of Maryland was not idle. Dr. Davidge, its honored founder, in 1812, essayed another System of Nosology, more simple and therefore more eligible than that of Cullen then prevailing. In 1814 he republished his memoir on yellow fever, and with it his inaugural thesis on the Catamenia, in a volume entitled "Physical Sketches,

¹ Gross, Introductory Lecture on American Medicine.

or outlines of correctives applied to certain errors in Physick," which, besides these, contains an elaborate history of the various methods of amputation, including one of his own. The introduction to his Nosology contains a powerful argument against Rush's theory of "the unity of disease," which at that time excited a good deal of interest. His thesis, written in Latin, and first printed at Glasgow in 1793, maintains the doctrine that the menstrual flux is a true secretion. Not the least pungent article in his sketches is the review of a case related by Caldwell in his paper on the vitality of the blood. The case was as follows: The writer, after the extraction of a tooth, had some trouble with hemorrhage, but, keeping the blood in the alveolus by pressure, at last arrested its flow. The weather being warm, he examined the coagulum several times a day, but instead of its becoming "putrid and offensive, he was surprised to observe it on the fourth or fifth day after coagulation beginning to assume the appearance of flesh." And this incarnation commenced, he relates, not at the circumference, "but in the centre of the coagulum, at the greatest possible distance from any vessels that might, by elongation, have been protruded from the adjacent gums;" so that "what had been at first nothing but congealed blood, became a piece of perfect flesh, similar in texture and appearance to that of the gums." Upon this remarkable case Davidge makes the following comments: First, that it is "solitary of its kind;" then, that the clot is singular "from its transparency," all other clots of blood being opaque; and, finally, he is bold to say, that "the asserted fact is bottomed upon the broad basis of human credulity."

As a controversialist, Davidge displayed undue acerbity, as the reader will conclude from the foregoing quotation. His style, at the same time, was stiff, involved and affected, entirely unlike that in which he lectured. His lectures, indeed, afforded a model of simple elegance, while the moment he took pen in hand he seemed to forget the English idiom. Ten years after the appearance of his "sketches," he issued the first number of a journal, *The Baltimore Philosophical Journal and Review*, which he proposed to continue, but was obliged to give up for want of encouragement. The number published was written almost entirely by himself, in his peculiar, crabbed style, and in a temper so acrimonious that it was hardly read at all when it came out, and might soon after have been bought almost as waste paper.¹

In 1816, a syllabus of the lectures of Dr. James Jackson in the Massachusetts Medical College, was published, and only increased the general feeling of regret that the learned and able author did not prepare a systematic treatise on the principles and practice of medicine.

In 1817 was published a volume of lectures on the "Elements of Therapeutics and Materia Medica," delivered by Dr. Nathaniel Chap-

¹ Dr. J. W. Francis in 1811 published an able paper on Mercury. It was in 1813 that Dr. Prescott wrote his article on Ergot, which was inserted in the thirteenth volume of the *Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales*. The same year Dr. John Warren wrote ably on Calomel, arguing against its utility in hydrocephalus. Dr. Charles Wells, a native of South Carolina, also published that year, in London, his philosophical theory of dew, which was crowned by the Royal Society in 1814 with the Rumford medal. Dr. E. Hale, Jr., in 1814, published an instructive volume on spotted fever; and in that year Dr. J. Dyckman produced an elaborate dissertation on the pathology of the human fluids. Dr. Joseph Gallup, in 1815, contributed a practical work on the epidemic diseases of Vermont from its first settlement. In the same year Dr. Job Wilson wrote an inquiry into the nature of spotted fever, and Dr. Ennalls Martin produced a history of the epidemics of the winter of 1813 and 1814 in Talbot and Queen Anne's counties, Maryland.

man in the University of Pennsylvania, to which a second volume succeeded in 1819. Nothing so fresh in style, or so original in theory, had been contributed to our literature since the days of Rush. These lectures were received by the profession with abundant favor. As "discourses" they were characterized by some redundancy of expression, and a severe critic would have termed their style florid; but they were, perhaps, more pleasing to youthful readers on that account. The writer remembers well the feeling of relief, not to say delight, with which he turned to them from the dry treatises on *Materia Medica*, and the drier dispensatories which they came to supplant. Chapman's theory of the operation of medicines was of modern date, as he expressed it, and of captivating simplicity. It was this: "That all such agents act by exciting a local impression, which is extended through the medium of sympathy." No article, he held, "ever enters the circulation as a medicine." "It cannot, indeed, be credited," he says, "that any substance, after a subjection to the digestive and assimilative process, retains in the slightest degree its original properties." Besides this, everything that acts upon the system "is a stimulant." Such was his philosophy in a few words, which one of his critics hardly ventured to controvert when it was announced, feeling himself *tibi miles impur.*¹ How successfully it has since been opposed need not be related here.

With this popular work came out some numbers in quarto of a treatise on the "Vegetable *Materia Medica* of the United States," by Dr. W. P. C. Barton, of the same University; and a treatise on Medical Botany, of much research and substantial value, in three volumes octavo, by Dr. Jacob Bigelow, of Harvard University. The work of Barton was subsequently issued in a form magnificently illustrated, under the name of "Flora of North America."

In 1817 was originated a Journal of Science, which, though not medical in character, exerted a decided influence on medicine in the United States. This was the "Journal of Science and Art," projected at New Haven by Prof. Benjamin Silliman, of Yale College. The work remained under his editorial care until it reached its fiftieth volume. No American serial, it may be safely said, has contributed more to the fame of our country, and none has done so much to develop its science in the direction of natural history. Its volumes form a magazine of facts and observations indispensable to writers on any branch of natural science, and contain many articles relating directly to medicine. Among the authors of our country it would be difficult to name a writer more polished and graceful, or more variously gifted and informed, than the elder Silliman, who devoted a long life assiduously to the advancement of useful knowledge among his countrymen, and who, on retiring from his work as editor, had the good fortune to find in his own family successors qualified to sustain the high reputation of his journal. Under the direction of Prof. B. Silliman, Jr., and Prof. James D. Dana, the American Journal of Science has maintained its rank as one of the leading periodicals of the world.

Dr. James Thacher, in 1817, published a work styled the "Modern Practice of Physic," the reception of which by the profession was so favorable that a second edition was called for in a few years. Dr. Thacher was at the same time a scholar and a practical physician, equally at home in the sick-room, in writing on the nature and treat-

¹ See *Med. Recorder*, vol. i. p. 189.

ment of disease, or in drawing up his well-known biographical sketches of noted American physicians. His is one of the names which will be long held by the profession in grateful remembrance.¹

In 1818, Dr. Nathaniel Potter, the learned Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Maryland, published an elaborate memoir on Contagion, more especially as respects the yellow fever. In the same year the Medical Recorder, which for a time was the most influential journal of medicine in the country, was set on foot by several respectable physicians of Philadelphia. Drs. Eberle, McClellan, and Calhoun were subsequently announced as its editors. In 1829 it was merged in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences. Among other interesting papers it contains a report of the famous operation of Deaderick, of Tennessee, for removal of the lower jaw, the first on record. Many other papers by the ablest medical writers of our country found their way into the Recorder.

In 1819, the first American works on Chemistry appeared. Dr. John Gorham published his Elements of Chemical Science in two volumes; and Dr. Franklin Bache, of Philadelphia, prepared an elementary treatise on chemistry about the same time. During this year, also, was announced a new theory of Galvanism, with an account of the calorimeter, a new galvanic instrument, by Dr. Robert Hare, the gifted Professor of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania.²

The United States Pharmacopœia, proposed in 1808 by the Massachusetts Medical Society, was issued in 1820, and having been repeatedly revised at intervals of ten years, retains its place among our standard works as a book of reference. In 1820 also was established the medical journal which has done more than any other of our serials to advance and shape the medical literature of the United States. Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, Professor of Theory and Practice in the University of Pennsylvania, started that year the Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences. In the inception of the enterprise he was alone, but in a short time he secured the valuable assistance of Drs. Dewees and Godman as associate editors. From the beginning, the Journal evinced the vigor to have been expected from the editorial talent engaged upon it. Its editor in chief was then in the prime of his great intellectual powers, and Godman had already given proof of a genius rarely equalled in our profession.³ In 1827, the name of the Philadelphia Journal was changed,

¹ Dr. James Mann, of New York, contributed an interesting History of the Campaigns of 1812, 1813, and 1814, to which are added surgical cases, and observations on military hospitals and flying hospitals attached to a moving army. Dr. Jabez Heustis published, in 1817, Some Physical Observations and Medical Facts and Researches on the Topography and Diseases of Louisiana. In the same year, Dr. W. C. P. Barton issued a work on the Internal Organization and Government of Marine Hospitals, based on his own experience and observation. The year following, Dr. John King published, at Norwich, a treatise on Extra-uterine Fœtation and Retroversion of the Uterus. Dr. J. C. Shecut, of Charleston, the same year, produced an Essay on Contagious and Infectious. Dr. A. H. Stevens published some cases of Fungus Hæmatodes of the Eye, in 1818.

² This year appeared also a work by Dr. L. Spalding, of New York, entitled Reflections on Yellow Fever Periods; one by Dr. Felix Pascalis, on the Malignant Yellow Fever of New York in 1819; and one by Dr. Shecut, of Charleston, containing a history of Yellow Fever.

³ The first account of that strange disease, "Milk sickness," so far as is known, was given by Messrs. Lea and McCall, students of medicine from Tennessee, in one of the earlier numbers of this journal, and it is proper to record that the editor was disposed to reject their history of this disease as apocryphal, for the reason that the facts stated seemed wholly irreconcilable with his hypothesis that poisons in a formal state never entered the circulation.

and it passed into the hands of Dr. Isaac Hays, who, with a judgment, perseverance, and industry, seldom witnessed in journalism, has continued it down to the present day, as the American Journal of the Medical Sciences.

This is the medical journal of our country to which the American physician abroad will point with greatest satisfaction, as reflecting the state of professional culture in his country. For a great many years it has been the medium through which our ablest writers have made known their discoveries and observations.

In 1821, Dr. Hosack's *Nosology*, which had been issued some years before, reached a second edition, and the *Journal of Foreign Medical Literature* was set on foot, by Drs. Emlen and Price, and afterwards continued for a time by Drs. Godman and Littell. Dr. Donaldson, in 1821, published a treatise on the present system of medicine and surgery in Europe and America; and Dr. E. Hale, Jr., the same year issued an essay, which had been crowned by the Boylston prize, on the connection between the Stomach and the Urinary Organs.

The following year was an eventful one in the history of our medical literature. A work of much research was produced by Dr. John C. Warren, styled "A Comparative View of the Sensorial and Nervous Systems in Man and Animals;" a treatise, by Dr. John Eberle, on *Materia Medica*, was published; and two journals appeared, the *New York Medical and Physical Journal*, conducted by Drs. Dyckman, Francis, and John B. Beck; and the *Western Quarterly Reporter*, edited by Dr. John D. Godman, at Cincinnati, marking the rise of medical journalism in the Valley of the Mississippi. The *Materia Medica* of Eberle was a work of sterling merit, at once learned, practical, and judicious, and written in a clear, simple style. Those most partial to Chapman could hardly help admitting that, in all the qualities sought for by students and practitioners in a text-book or a manual, it was superior to his treatise on the subject. Its author, with far less genius, was a scholar of very much greater research, who had taken time to look extensively through the German and French literature on the subject as well as that in his own language, and to make his work as thorough as industry could render it. It was long one of the most popular text-books in our schools, as well as an authority in the profession. Dr. J. Bigelow, the same year, published a valuable treatise on *Materia Medica*, intended as a sequel to the *Pharmacopæia of the United States*. An era was opened in the professional literature of the West by the appearance of Godman's journal at Cincinnati, which, though of short duration, was the beginning of a most prolific series. Only six monthly numbers of his work were issued, but as proof of the activity and zeal with which the editor devoted himself to it, it is worthy of mention that, of the matter composing them, he wrote more than three hundred pages.¹

The year 1823 is also memorable as having produced the classical work on *Medical Jurisprudence* by Dr. T. Romeyn Beck and Dr. John B.

¹ Dr. Godman, in 1824, published a thin octavo volume made up of anatomical researches, which was followed, the succeeding year, by a smaller volume, entitled *Contributions to Physiological and Pathological Anatomy*, founded on his own dissections. His *American Natural History*, in three volumes, appeared in 1826, and gave him standing with the naturalists of his time. A small volume, composed of Addresses delivered on various occasions, followed in 1829. The "Rambles of a Naturalist," written for a weekly magazine in Philadelphia, and published in a small volume after the author's death, was the last of his labors, all of which bore evidence of a passionate devotion to, and of a genius capable of the highest achievements in, science.

Beck. This admirable treatise has rather gained in reputation than declined during the many years that have elapsed since its publication; nor is there any reason why it should not maintain its enviable position among the works of its class, since the changes which, under a rapid succession of systems, are inevitable in other departments of medicine, are not met with in medical jurisprudence. Besides this learned work, which has conferred so much fame upon our authorship, others of note were written in 1823. One of these was on Diseases of the Eye, by Dr. George Friek, of Baltimore; and a larger one on Fevers, from the pen of Dr. Thomas Miner and Dr. Wm. Tully, two eminent physicians of New England, had the recommendation of being founded on the observation and experience of its authors at the bedside.¹

Dr. William P. Dewees, who had become eminent in Philadelphia as an accoucheur, and was known in all parts of his country as a writer on obstetrics, appeared in 1824² as author of a System of Midwifery, which not only gave new dignity to the art in the New World, but may be said to have created an American School of Obstetrics. The popularity of this work was very great, and in thirteen years it had passed through a dozen editions. The author wrote from his own experience, and expressed himself as one having a right to speak. If he was dogmatic, it must be remembered that he was almost without a rival near him to question his authority, and if his pages betray haste and carelessness, the defect must be set down to the incessant press of business which left him little leisure for correcting what he wrote. There is something painful in the thought that a work once so much read, and held in such high esteem, should now be entirely neglected. But the march of science renders such a fate inevitable. Other systems more advanced have long since taken its place.

A treatise on the Diseases of Females, and one on the Physical and Medical Management of Children, followed Dr. Dewees's Midwifery in 1826, and extended his fame as an author. It was many years before either work was superseded, and while they stood their ground they were to be found in nearly every medical library of the country. In 1830 he entered a new field, sending forth a "Practice of Physic," comprising most of the diseases not treated of in his "Diseases of Females" and his work on Children; but this proved a failure. The writer had undertaken too much. Of all subjects pertaining to obstetrics, he was master, but his medical philosophy was tainted by the declining system of Broussais, and his therapeutics proved unpopular. As a specimen of his practice, it may be mentioned that he reports having bled one of his patients six times for a fever, brought back, after she was convalescent, by a single plate of soup.

Few more remarkable men have appeared in the American profession than Dr. Nathan Smith, author of a treatise on typhus fever written in

¹ The following works were also issued in 1823: An Essay on Suspended Animation, by Dr. Samuel Calhoun; a Guide for Practising Physicians in Visiting the Sick, by Dr. J. Lobstein; a Treatise on Cynanche trachealis, by Dr. W. Sweetzer, of Boston, who also wrote on Consumption and on Indigestion in 1836 and 1837; an Account of Yellow Fever in New York, in 1822, by Dr. T. S. Townsend; and a History of Yellow Fever as it appeared in Natchez, in 1822, by Dr. Henry Tooley.

² A work on the Philosophy of Epidemics was contributed in 1824 by Dr. Joseph M. Smith, and also three volumes of Essays on various medical subjects by Dr. David Hosack. The Medical Intelligencer, a monthly in quarto form, was started in the winter of 1823-4 by Dr. J. V. C. Smith, at Boston; and the Medical Review and Analytical Journal by Dr. Eberle and Dr. George McClellan, in Philadelphia, in 1824.

1824. He was a great surgeon, an able teacher, and a judicious author. In independence of thought, and in sturdy, common sense, he had few equals in his day, and has never had many superiors in the profession. When his little volume appeared, the distinction between typhus and typhoid fever had not been recognized, and it was evidently the latter that he had under consideration. "I have never been satisfied," he declares, "that I have cut short a single case of typhus fever that I know to be such. Typhus has a natural termination like other diseases which arise from specific causes." His readers, fresh from the work of Armstrong, on typhus fever, recommending a vigorous treatment by the lancet and purgatives, were not a little disappointed when they came to his concluding words as to its cure: "All that is required is simple demulcent drinks, a very small quantity of farinaceous food, and avoidance of all causes of irritation." Another work on surgery was produced in 1824, by a professor in the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. William Gibson. It was a heavy work, compared with that of Dorsey, and in comparison with later systems it was greatly wanting in information; but the author made amends for these early defects in succeeding editions, and his surgery acquired at last a just claim to the position given it by his official connections. It was not long in supplanting the treatise of Dorsey as a text-book in the American schools.¹

In 1826, the North American Journal of Medicine and Surgery was established at Philadelphia, under the auspices of the "Kappa Lambda Society of Hippocrates." Its corps of editors embraced some of the best medical talent of the country. It included the names of H. L. Hodge, C. D. Meigs, B. H. Coates, F. Bache, and R. LaRoche, to which, after two years, those of John Bell, George B. Wood, and D. F. Condie, were added. The aim of the Society was to promote harmony in the ranks of the profession, and with its patronage the journal was expected to have wide circulation. It assumed at once a high rank among the periodicals of the day, but, notwithstanding its acknowledged ability, and the favorable circumstances attending its origin, it was discontinued at the end of the twelfth volume for want of adequate pecuniary support. A systematic treatise on anatomy was added to the list of American books in 1826, by Professor William E. Horner, of the University of Pennsylvania, one of the most pains-taking and assiduous of modern authors; but though fuller and more accurate than the volumes of Wistar, it failed to secure the footing in the schools so long maintained by our earliest work on anatomy.

Dr. James Rush produced, in 1827, a work on the Philosophy of the Human Voice, which for originality and depth of research has been pronounced by competent judges one of the most creditable of the productions of our country relating to medicine. The same year, the Monthly Journal of Medicine originated in Philadelphia, and Dr. Drake took charge of the Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences, at Cincinnati. When he projected his periodical, he assumed as its motto, *E sylvis nuncius*; to which, no readers being secured east of the mountains, he added subsequently the words, *aque atque ad sylvas nuncius*.

¹ Dr. Thomas Miner gave an interesting account of typhus syncopal in 1825, and an epitome of chemical philosophy was published the same year by Dr. James D. Dana. In 1825 also appeared a Manual of Chemistry by Dr. John W. Webster, Professor of Chemistry in Harvard University, who was executed at Boston in 1850 for the murder of Dr. George Parkman.

He conducted it with great energy for twelve years, when it was merged in a journal at Louisville.¹

In 1828, Dr. John E. Cooke produced a work in two volumes of decided originality. It was entitled a Treatise of Pathology and Therapeutics, and proposed a new theory of disease. The theory was one of the most compendious ever framed. It referred all fevers, with cholera, dysentery, and a host of other varying affections, to congestion of the *vena cava*. And his therapeutics were no less simple. All his remedial measures had reference to unlocking the liver by purgatives, at the head of which, in point of efficacy, he reckoned calomel. The aim being to secure bilious purging, cathartics were to be repeated, in increasing doses, until the effect was produced. In the end, this led to an abuse of calomel which brought it into great disrepute; and with its popularity the writings and the system of one of the most learned and conscientious of American authors have passed away. With this work, Dr. Cooke, in conjunction with his colleague, Dr. C. W. Short, started the Transylvania Journal of Medicine, which was edited by them for four years. At the close of the fourth volume it passed into the hands of Dr. L. P. Yandell. Dr. Robert Peter became its editor in 1837. Among its more valuable papers are the reports by Dr. B. W. Dudley of his operations for stone in the bladder, and his cure of chronic epilepsy by removing portions of the skull bone depressed by mechanical injuries.

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal was also set on foot in 1828, by Dr. J. V. C. Smith, author of a work on the Fishes of Massachusetts. In that year, too, the Medical Biography of Dr. Thacher, a work not likely to be superseded, was contributed to our literature. A year later Dr. Horner produced his System of Pathological Anatomy, founded on original observations.²

In 1830, an elaborate work on Chemistry, by Prof. Silliman, was announced. Its arrangement was regarded as defective, and, added to this, its size unfitted it for the use of students, so that it never attained general currency; but as a repository of chemical knowledge interesting to all readers, nothing superior to it has been produced in the English language. Dr. Samuel D. Gross, who has since contributed so largely to the literature of the profession, appeared this year as author of a modest volume on the Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Bones and Joints, which, it is interesting to remark, contains the first account of adhesive plaster as a surgical appliance in fractures.³

In 1831, the classical work of Dr. John Bell on Baths and Mineral Waters appeared. The same author, in 1842, produced another work,

¹ Dr. Guy W. Wright and Dr. James M. Mason had started a semi-monthly, the year before, under the name of the Ohio Medical Repository. In 1832 the Western Medical Gazette was set on foot by the Faculty of the Medical College of Ohio, but at the end of nine months was suspended. It was revived five months afterwards by Dr. Silas Reed and Dr. Samuel D. Gross, who continued it until two volumes were completed. In 1842 the Western Lancet was projected at Cincinnati by Dr. Leonidas M. Lawson; and in 1847 the Dental Register of the West was started at the same place by Dr. James Taylor, of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.

² In 1829 the Journal of Health was projected by Drs. John Bell and D. Francis Condie, at Philadelphia. A Formulary, which was greatly useful to the profession, was published by Dr. Benjamin Ellis: a System of Dental Surgery was contributed by Dr. Samuel Fitch; a Journal of Pharmacy was started by Dr. B. Ellis; and a treatise on the Distinct and Confluent Smallpox was produced by Dr. John D. Fisher.

³ Dr. S. W. Avery, in 1830, issued a work, meant especially for the people, entitled "The Dyspeptic's Monitor."

written in the same elevated style, on Regimen and Longevity. The kindred topics of Alcohol in its Relations to Medicine, and the Importance and Economy of Sanitary Measures to Cities, were treated of in works issued in 1839 and 1869, and discussed with marked ability. Dr. John Eberle, in 1831, enriched our literature by two works of the highest merit—his treatise on the Diseases and Physical Education of Children, and his treatise on the Practice of Medicine. Nothing equal to them, in every respect, had been produced by an American writer. Not only were they admirable in style, but they were full, accurate, and practical in matter. Both were adopted as text-books in our schools, and passed through many editions before they were superseded.¹

Dr. Nathan R. Smith issued a volume of great interest, in 1831, consisting of memoirs, medical and surgical, by his honored father, with additions from his own pen. In 1832 the same author contributed a work on the Anatomy of the Arteries, which was of value to the profession.

Dr. Amariah Brigham also, in 1832, commenced a series of publications which excited much interest among students of psychological medicine. The first treated of the influence of mental culture on health. It was republished in Glasgow, with notes by Dr. Robert McNish, and was followed, in 1836, by a treatise on the Influence of Religion on Health and the Physical Welfare of Mankind, which involved the author in an embittered controversy. With these a small volume was brought out by Dr. Brigham, in 1833, on Epidemic Cholera; and, in 1840, one of much more note and significance on the Diseases and Functions of the Brain, the Spinal Cord, and the Nervous System.

The leading production, however, of 1832, was the treatise of Dr. Samuel Jackson, on the Principles of Medicine. This volume came out with a heraldry before unknown in the literary history of our country. "Knowing the anxiety of the profession in regard to the forthcoming work of Dr. Jackson," said the leading journal of the Union, "we applied to its publishers for an early copy," which was duly noticed in terms of the strongest commendation. "Its publication," declared the reviewer, "will constitute an epoch in the history of American medical literature." For years before it was published it had been understood that the author was at work on a treatise in which justice should be done to the merits of physiological medicine; but, unfortunately for it, physiological medicine was about to vanish away when it appeared, and its interest declined with the system. One edition of it was sold, and the publishers proposed to issue a second; but the author would not consent to the labor of remodelling it in a way to make it conform to the medical science of the period, and no other was ever issued. It has been often repeated, without truth, that the work fell still-born from the press, and much has been credited to unfriendly criticism as the explanation of this defeat, but with only a show of reason. Certainly, if it was reviewed harshly in some quarters, in others it received, as has been shown, a full meed of praise. And the most formidable of its critics, a writer in the Transylvania Journal of Medicine, at Lexington, assailed it with

¹ The following works also appeared in 1831: Drawings of the Anatomy of the Groin, by Dr. William Darrach; a Treatise on Malaria, by Dr. U. Parsons: a small volume, by Dr. John Ware, on Delirium Tremens; a work on Chemistry, by Dr. Lewis C. Beck: a modest little volume of Essays on Materia Medica, by Mr. Geo. W. Carpenter; and a singular treatise on Dyspepsia, by Mr. O. Halsted, proposing to cure the complaint by shaking and kneading the digestive organs after eating.

arguments which rather recommended than injured it with most readers. The chief objections urged against it by this reviewer were that it leaned to humoralism in pathology, and ignored the claims of phrenology. The book failed, so far as it was a failure, because its philosophy was defective. It perished with the narrow and fanciful system which the author himself lived to renounce as unfounded.

The treatise of Dr. Robley Dunglison on Physiology also appeared in 1832, and formed a contribution to our literature which all readers hailed as of true value. It was such a compend of physiological science as was before nowhere extant in the English language; incomparably superior to the works of Bosstock, Richerand, and Blumenbach, which had previously been the dependence of our students of medicine. Availing himself freely of the labors of others, the author's aim was to present a view of the existing state of physiology, without any straining after originality; so that his volumes are marked by learning rather than novelty of doctrine, but are none the less valuable to students on that account. The style in which they are written is unambitious, simple, clear, and pleasing. That many of his views were not accepted at the time, and that not a few have since been set aside, is what was to have been expected in a science advancing like physiology; but his work, the most advanced of its day, forms a rich treasury of facts and learning which the student may still consult with advantage.¹

A work in some respects the most fortunate that has been produced in America, appeared the next year in Philadelphia. In 1833, the United States Dispensatory, the joint production of Dr. George B. Wood and Dr. Franklin Bache, two of the ablest medical scholars of our country, was published, and at once took the foremost place among American works of its class. Nearly half a century has been completed since it was brought before the profession, but it may be doubted whether its standing was ever higher than it is at the present day. Its authors commenced life in Philadelphia about the same time, and were early friends. When they rose to distinction they were called to teach in rival institutions, but the jealousies of the schools, if any ever arose, never entered their studies, nor for an hour disturbed their fraternal relations. Laboring on together as edition after edition of their great work was called for, one on the chemical, the other on its botanical department, their cordial intercourse ceased only when one of the laborers was called away by death. Dr. Wood, who survives to enjoy the fruits of his honorable industry, may well recount this enduring friendship as among the greatest blessings of a fortunate life.

In 1833 the profession was enriched by a work which may be said to have enlarged our knowledge on some points in physiology more than all that had preceded it—a work that resulted from an accident. Dr. William Beaumont, a surgeon in the United States Army, had the rare opportunity of observing how digestion is accomplished in the human stomach. A Canadian soldier received a wound from the discharge of a gun, that exposed the interior of his stomach to view. An orifice remained after his recovery, through which food could be introduced, and

¹ In 1832, Dr. Thomas D. Mitchell brought out a treatise on Chemistry, on the basis of that of Reid, his chief additions to which consisted in an argument to show that alcohol might be dispensed with not only in medicine, but in pharmacy. Dr. L. Hays originated, in this year, the Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine, to which some of the best writers in our country contributed articles. Dr. James Jackson, Jr., published also, in 1832, a small volume on Cholera, made up of cases which he had witnessed in the Paris hospitals.

the action of the gastric juice upon it noted. The results of his numerous experiments and observations, in many of which he had the aid of Dr. Dunglison, are given by Beaumont in a volume which must remain in all coming time an authority on the subject of digestion. Some of the facts first established in the case of his patient will find a place in every treatise on physiology.

With this valuable monograph, another work appeared in 1833, most creditable to the literature of medicine in our country. This was the medical dictionary of Dr. Dunglison, which has gone on increasing in popularity with the profession from year to year. It was at first issued in two volumes, and contained biographical notices of many of the most eminent medical men of the world, but this feature disappeared in the second edition, the author finding that the biography would swell his work to an inconvenient size. Each successive edition has increased the value as much as the bulk of the dictionary, which it is safe to say stands now unrivalled in the English language. Dr. Dunglison's son, fortunately for the profession, has inherited the gifts which rendered his father the first of medical lexicographers, and promises to maintain the work in its present high position during at least another generation.

Dr. E. Giddings, of the University of Maryland, set on foot another periodical, the same year, the Baltimore Medical and Surgical Journal and Review, but though among its correspondents it numbered such writers as T. R. Beck, N. Potter, and N. R. Smith, it fell through after a few months. Dr. Samuel Metcalf, this year also, added something to our literature in the shape of a small volume presenting a new theory of terrestrial magnetism. Magnetism, he held, was but another form of caloric, which, passing from south to north, gave the directive force to the needle. Ten years later, and after much investigation of the subject abroad, he published, in London, a second and much larger edition of his book. It cost the author, indeed, a vast amount of labor, which was but poorly requited either in fame or money, while the advancing years of his life were embittered by disputes with contemporary scientists about his claims to priority of discovery.

In 1834 numerous works were contributed. Dr. J. R. Coxe started an "Inquiry into the Claims of Harvey to the discovery of the Circulation of the Blood," in which he succeeded in showing that in this memorable instance, as in all cases before and since, the truth was not reached at once by the intuition of a single mind, but by the efforts of a succession of inquirers. Dr. Frost, of the University of South Carolina, published a volume of lectures on *Materia Medica*. Dr. Wm. W. Gerhard made a valuable publication on the cerebral affections of children, which he followed, in 1836, by a volume of lectures on the diseases of the chest, and, in 1837, by a clinical guide for students.¹ A work of much merit on Pulmonary Consumption was produced, in 1834, by Dr. Samuel George Morton, whose labors in other fields subsequently made his name illustrious in science. In 1849, he brought out a work on human anatomy, but, in 1839, he had published his great work, entitled "Crania Ameri-

¹ Dr. Gerhard's treatises were founded on clinical observations, from which they derived unusual interest. He did much for the education of his young countrymen in physical diagnosis of diseases of the chest; and was the first, or among the first, to point out the distinction between typhus and typhoid fever. He made the diagnosis unequivocal. He also called attention to the relation of hydrocephalus, in infants, to tubercular meningitis. Few more successful investigators than Dr. Gerhard have labored in our country to advance medicine.

cana." His "Crania *Ægyptica*" followed in 1844. His collection of crania enabled him to compare the cerebral capacity of most of the nations of the earth, thus furnishing data from which physiologists are able to draw interesting conclusions.¹

Dr. James Jackson, in 1835, published a memoir of his lamented son, Dr. James Jackson, Jr., who gave promise of great distinction in his profession; and, in 1838, he reported a number of cases of typhoid fever, which occurred in the Massachusetts hospital; a paper which Dr. Bartlett found of the greatest service in the preparation of his work on fevers. In 1835, Dr. Dunglison published his scholarly work on Hygiene; Dr. John P. Harrison collected and published a volume of Lectures and Essays on Medical Subjects, which had previously appeared in another form; and Dr. John B. Beck issued a volume of Researches in Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence. A volume consisting of papers read before various learned bodies was also issued, by Dr. Richard Harlan, entitled Medical and Physical Researches, or Original Memoirs; it embraced valuable contributions to Zoology and Comparative Anatomy. But the most original work of this year, and, in its effects, far the most important, was the paper read before the Massachusetts Medical Society, by Dr. Jacob Bigelow, on Self-limited Diseases. The conception of such a class of affections did not originate with the author, but its existence was never so fully recognized before he wrote. The recognition has effected a revolution in the treatment of many complaints, while the class in which the principle obtains has been steadily extending since he called professional attention to it. Another work of this year, which, though a compilation, claims a favorable notice, is the First Lines of Physiology, by Professor Daniel Oliver, of Dartmouth College. It is an admirable digest of the facts of the Science. The Author was in advance of the Physiologists of his day in ignoring the pretensions of Phrenology, and in admitting the truth of certain phenomena in animal magnetism which rest, as Sir W. Hamilton expresses it, "upon a tenfold superfluous evidence."

From Dr. Dunglison's prolific pen another work appeared the following year; his General Therapeutics, or Principles of Medical Practice, with tables of the chief remedial agents and their preparations, and of the different Poisons and their Antidotes. But as it was a production of the closet, and not the result of clinical observation, though it was written by a profound and judicious scholar, it never took rank with his Physiology, or his Dictionary. Dr. John C. Warren this year published an elaborate treatise on tumors. During the year, an interesting prize essay, on the Physical Signs in Diseases of the Abdomen and Thorax, was published by Dr. R. W. Haxall, of Richmond.²

¹ Dr. Togno, in 1834, published a work on the Anatomy and Physiology of the Ear. Dr. Casanova published some observations on cholera morbus. Drs. Ogier and Logan issued a compend of operative surgery, and Dr. Edward Barton, who had appeared as an author in 1828, wrote a treatise on yellow fever.

² Dr. Caleb Ticknor, of New York, published, this year, a popular volume in Harper's Family Library, on the Philosophy of Living, taking for his motto the wise saying of Bacon, that "A man's own observation, what he finds good of, and what he finds hurt of, is the best physic to preserve health." And a volume was issued by Dr. Parrish, of Philadelphia, entitled Practical Observations on Strangulated Hernia, based on a large experience. Two new journals also appeared this year—the Electric Journal of Medicine, afterwards the Bulletin of Medical Science, projected by that indefatigable writer, Dr. John Bell, and the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, at Augusta, Ga., edited by Dr. M. Anthony and Dr. Joseph A. Eve. Dr. Luther V. Bell, of New Hampshire, published this year some Observations on certain obscure and undecided Doctrines in relation to Smallpox, Varioloid, and Vaccination. Dr. George Bushe, of New York, in 1837, wrote a treatise on the

In 1838, also, a large number of works was issued, first among which, in ability and in the impression it produced, was the Philadelphia Practice of Midwifery, by Dr. Charles D. Meigs. Another was the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity, by Dr. Isaac Ray, which treats ably of a subject too little understood by physicians. The lectures of Dr. Hosack on the Theory and Practice of Physic, edited by Dr. Henry W. Ducachet, were published this year, as were also Lectures on Lithotomy, by Dr. A. H. Stevens. Dr. Charles Hooker, too, produced a well written Essay on the Relations between the Respiratory and Circulatory Functions, while Dr. Tripler wrote on Recruiting, and Dr. J. W. Monette on Yellow Fever in New Orleans and Natchez; and the Philadelphia Medical Examiner, edited by Drs. Biddle and Clymer, was originated.

Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, the succeeding year, made an important communication in reference to thoracentesis in chronic pleurisy; an operation much opposed at first, but now generally conceded to be legitimate. It has been performed by Dr. Bowditch 325 times, and on 204 patients. To this valuable contribution to our literature, that author has added some interesting statistics relating to the influence of a wet soil on pulmonary consumption. Dr. Dunglison came out this year with still another book, entitled New Remedies, which, like all the productions of his pen, was marked by industry, sound judgment, and a clear English style. Dr. Samuel D. Gross, then a professor in the Cincinnati Medical College, produced a work of much labor on Pathological Anatomy, the first in our language to present a systematic view of the science, and useful in directing the attention of students more generally to that important study.

In 1840 the following works appeared: Dr. B. B. Shoer, of Charleston, issued an Essay on Yellow Fever, designed to prove the transmissibility of the disease; and Dr. Upham wrote on Disorders of the Mind; but the great work of the year was from a professor in the University of New York, Dr. Martyn Paine, entitled Medical and Physiological Commentaries. Hardly a work issued from the medical press of America will compare with these ponderous volumes in the learning or in the tedious prolixity with which they are composed. Holding resolutely to an exploded medical philosophy, the author was born too late to command the reverence which his great erudition would have excited in an earlier age. His elaborate and exhaustive commentaries were followed, some years later, by a volume on *Materia Medica*, characterized by all their merits and all their defects. His volumes are works for teachers and writers, rather than for practitioners or students of medicine. Dr. Edward Warren published, this year, two Boylston Prize Essays, on Scrofula, Rheumatism, and Erysipelatous Inflammation. The Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery was started at Louisville. It succeeded to the Louisville Journal of Medicine, edited by Drs. Miller, Yandell, and Bell, two numbers of which were issued in 1838, and to the Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences, thirteen volumes of which had been completed by Dr. Drake at Cincinnati. It was edited by Dr. Daniel Drake and Dr. L. P. Yandell, with whom, after the second year, Dr. T. W. Colescott was associated, and on the retirement

Malformations, Injuries, and Diseases of the Rectum. The American Intelligencer and Medical Library was set on foot the same year, by Dr. Dunglison. In it were republished many valuable English works on medicine. Dr. Doane also issued this year an illustrated Surgery, and Dr. Dunglison added his Medical Student or aids to the Study of Medicine.

of Drs. Drake and Colecott, some years later, Dr. T. S. Bell became one of its editors.

The only publications in 1841, of which I have been able to find any account, were a volume of Essays on Fevers, by Drs. Davidson and Hudson, and a Practical Dictionary of Materia Medica, by Dr. John Bell.

The following year, Dr. Elisha Bartlett, who had made himself known as one of the most elegant of our writers by his papers in the medical journals of the day, published his well-known work on Fevers. It was succeeded in 1844 by his Philosophy of Medical Science, and in 1848 he added his Inquiry into the degree of certainty in Medicine; three volumes which, for grace of manner and philosophical breadth of view, will not suffer by comparison with any medical works in our language. Dr. Samuel Forry also contributed to our literature, in 1842, a volume which attracted the attention and elicited the praise of the great Humboldt—his work on the Climate of the United States and its endemic influences. It will remain a lasting monument to the genius and industry of the lamented author. While preparing this treatise for the press, he also set on foot the New York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences, to which he continued to contribute largely, though with failing powers, until removed by death. The name of this young physician ought not to be passed over without at least a word of respectful commemoration. He was "learned, without any fondness for display; a lover of exact detail, but always searching for principles in the facts he accumulated so largely; a statistician, and yet a fluent writer. How entirely his devotion to his pursuits prevailed over the common weaknesses and interests by which most men are influenced, was shown by the fearless readiness with which he threw himself into the focus of a pestilential disease for the sake of studying its nature and causes, as a mere episode in a pleasure trip which he had undertaken to recruit his exhausted forces."¹

In 1843, a work was produced at Louisville by Dr. W. A. McDowell, styled a "Demonstration of the Curability of Consumption in all its stages;" and the same year the St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal was established by Dr. M. L. Linton. A work of great merit was also published by Dr. Gross, of the University of Louisville, entitled "An Experimental and Critical Inquiry into the Nature and Treatment of Wounds of the Intestines," the result of a series of experiments which he had performed on dogs.

In 1844, numerous works of real value appeared. The following is a list: A Treatise on the Diseases of Children, by Dr. D. Francis Condie; a quarto volume on Operative Surgery, by Dr. Joseph Pancoast; an Atlas illustrative of the structure of the human body, prepared with great care by Dr. Henry H. Smith; a treatise on the Teeth, by Dr. Paul B. Goddard and Joseph E. Parker, a practical Dentist of Philadelphia; an ingenious essay by Dr. John Harrison, of the University of Louisiana, towards a correct Theory of the Nervous System; two volumes of lectures, by the veteran teacher Dr. Nathaniel Chapman; and the American Journal of Insanity. Few physicians in our country have used their pens more industriously or more profitably than Condie, whose work on Diseases of Children was accounted, when written, the most learned and judicious that had appeared on the subject in the English

¹ O. W. Holmes, Report Med. Literature, Trans. Am. Med. Assoc., 1848.

language. The great fame of Chapman as a writer and teacher gave currency to his volumes. Dentistry, which was already making rapid progress, both as a science and an art, in our country, received a favorable impetus from the work of Goddard and Parker. The splendid work of Pancoast secured him a reputation wherever surgery was cultivated. As a guide to the practical surgeon, it was of the highest value, each operation being illustrated by drawings representing the anatomy involved.

The first work by an American, on Diseases of the Skin, appeared in 1845, and was written by Dr. N. Worcester, of the Cleveland Medical College. Other valuable works were issued at the same time, one of which was a volume of essays on Pathology and Therapeutics, by Dr. Samuel H. Dickson of the Medical College of South Carolina, one of the most accomplished of American authors.¹ Another addition was also made this year by a western teacher of medicine to our works on *Materia Medica*; Dr. John P. Harrison, of the Medical College of Ohio, wrote a treatise on that subject in two volumes, earnestly inculcating "Solidism." "In the discussion of the action of medicines, we have endeavored," he says, "to place the whole question on a footing conclusively vital." He discusses blood-letting at great length. His classification is recommended by its simplicity, all his remedies being embraced in six classes. The work is written in a diffuse style, and was recommended more by its judicious therapeutics than by its scientific teachings.

A volume of Lectures, by Dr. Chapman; a work on Fevers, by Dr. Meredith Clymer; a treatise on Serofula, by Dr. Phillips; the Young Stethoscopist, by Dr. H. L. Bowditch; an Epitome of the writings of Hippocrates and Galen, prepared by Dr. John Redman Coxe; a valuable memoir by Prof. Robert Peter, containing an analysis of the calculi in the museum of Transylvania University, with remarks on the relative frequency of calculous affections at Lexington, and the probable causes; and First Principles of Chemistry, by Prof. Benjamin Silliman, Jr., who was fast succeeding to the fame of his father, were some of the contributions to our literature in 1846.² Dr. Lewis C. Beck, in 1846, wrote on the Adulteration of various substances used in Medicine and the Arts, with the means of detection; and a practical Treatise on Ventilation was also published by Dr. Morrill Wyman.

The discovery of anaesthesia renders this year memorable in the history of our profession. Towards its close, Dr. Henry J. Bigelow read before the Boston Medical Improvement Society, a paper in which he detailed the facts concerning the great event that had fallen under his observation, and vouching for the efficacy of sulphuric ether in annulling pain in surgical operations. This first communication on the subject appeared in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Nov. 18, 1846, and is noteworthy as announcing to the world one of the noblest discoveries in Medicine.

¹ Dr. G. R. B. Horner added an interesting volume on the Medical Topography of Brazil and Uruguay, and Dr. Stephen W. Williams contributed one on the Medical Biography of the United States. The Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal, under the able editorial direction of Dr. Austin Flint, was established. Dr. Horner had in 1839 published a work on the Mediterranean, and in 1854 he contributed one on the diseases and injuries of seamen. Dr. J. H. Griscom published in 1845 an instructive little work on the Sanitary condition of the laboring Population of New York.

² Dr. Peter also contributed to Medical Science by his Analysis of the Mineral Springs of Kentucky, contained in the geological reports of that State.

The meeting of physicians at New York, which resulted in the organization of the American Medical Association, is another event of this year, which marks an era in the history of Medicine in the western hemisphere. The effect of the Association upon the profession has been in every way beneficent, elevating its tone, promoting harmony among its members, and stimulating and improving its literature. Few movements of the century to which these papers refer have contributed so much to the advancement of American Medicine.

Dr. Horace Green, in 1846, startled the profession by a work on the Diseases of the Throat and Air-passages, proposing to introduce remedies into the larynx; but his bold practice has been justified by subsequent experience, and he is now admitted to have been a pioneer in this department of medicine, and to have led the way to what others with better instruments have accomplished.

Numerous works appeared in 1847, conspicuous among which was the learned treatise of Dr. George B. Wood on the Practice of Medicine. It had the advantage over all its predecessors in that department, of being founded on clinical observation, and as a consequence was soon adopted as the text-book in our schools, and became the popular work of reference with practitioners. Dr. Charles D. Meigs issued another of his works, written in his peculiar, somewhat fantastic style—his “Woman; her Diseases and Remedies,” with the effect of increasing the growing interest of the profession in Gynaecology. Dr. Joseph Carson commenced the issue of a series of colored “Illustrations of Medical Botany,” and Dr. R. Eglesfeld Griffith produced a practical volume on the same subject. A most valuable contribution was made to pathological anatomy by Dr. J. B. S. Jackson, in his Descriptive Catalogue of the Anatomical Museum of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement. In 1847 Dr. David II. Tucker produced a small volume entitled Elements of the Principles and Practice of Midwifery.¹

In 1848, a volume of Transactions was issued at Baltimore by the American Medical Association, which had been organized at Philadelphia the year before. A volume has been sent out by the Association annually since, and while it would be easy to point out defects in them all, it will not be denied by any unprejudiced reader that they form a valuable body of medical literature. All that comes before each meeting, or nearly all, appears in the Transactions, and it follows that much is published which if submitted to a rigid criticism would never see the light. But the series embraces many strong, original, and truly valuable papers from the best minds in the profession, and, apart from the diffusion of knowledge thence directly resulting, the effect of inviting physicians everywhere to write for the Association has been to develop and improve professional talent in a way that nothing but such a society could have done.

The following works also came out in 1848: A volume by Dr. Alfred Stillé, on General Pathology, which possessed great merit, both as to its

¹ Dr. H. H. Smith also published this year a Minor Surgery; and Dr. Edward Jarvis contributed a treatise on Physiology for the Use of Schools and Families. Dr. J. W. Francis delivered an admirable anniversary address before the New York Academy of Medicine, which was published; Dr. John Ware published an able address on Medical Education. “Water versus Hydropathy” appeared, a practical essay on Water in its relations to Medicine, by Dr. Henry Hartshorne. Dr. John Neill published Outlines of the Veins and Lymphatics; and Dr. J. J. Reese a small work on Physiology. The Dental Register of the West also came out this year.

matter and the style of its execution; a practical and excellent Treatise on the Diseases of Children, by Dr. J. Forsyth Meigs; the learned lectures on the Theory and Practice of Physic, of Drs. Bell and Stokes; a treatise on Etherization, by Dr. Walter Channing, embodying his experience of anaesthesia in midwifery; a work of much originality on Croup, by Dr. Horace Green; the ingenious essay on the Cryptogamous Origin of Diseases, by Dr. J. K. Mitchell, a man of genius as well as of learning and large experience; a posthumous volume on Surgery, by the gifted Dr. George McClellan, of the Jefferson Medical College, edited by his son, Dr. J. H. B. McClellan; Observations on Diseases of the Chest, and on Auscultation, by Dr. Blakiston; Dr. Pliny Earle's interesting history of the Bloomingdale Asylum for the insane; and two new journals of Medicine, the Charleston Medical Journal and the Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal.¹

The additions to our literature in 1849 were hardly less numerous than those of the preceding year. Dr. Meigs produced a treatise on Obstetrics; and one on the same subject appeared from the pen of Dr. Henry Miller, of the University of Louisville. Both works possessed great merit, as the productions of independent, vigorous minds long turned upon that branch of medicine. Dr. E. D. Fenner issued a volume of Southern Medical Reports, full of original observations on the diseases of the Southern States, which was followed by a second volume in 1851. Dr. Worthington Hooker produced his "Physician and Patient," presenting a sensible view of the mutual duties, relations, and interests of the medical profession and the community; and Dr. J. W. Powell contributed a work on the eye and its diseases. Equal in merit to any of these, and superior to most, was a volume of Essays, by Dr. John B. Beck, on Infantile Therapeutics, to which are added observations on ergot, and an interesting account of the origin of the use of mercury in inflammatory complaints.²

The contributions of 1850 embrace some of the ablest made to our literature by the American medical profession. They are the following: a Treatise on the Diseases of the Great Interior Valley of North America, by Dr. Daniel Drake; Observations on certain of the Diseases of Young Children, by Dr. C. D. Meigs; a work on Materia Medica and Therapeutics, by Dr. Thomas D. Mitchell; the Principles of Medical Jurisprudence, by Amos Dean, Esq., of the Albany Medical College; a work on the Diagnosis and Pathology of Renal diseases, by Dr. Charles Frick; a History of Medical Education and Institutions in the United States, by

¹ A small volume on Etherization, with surgical remarks, by Dr. John C. Warren, was contributed to the literature of that subject: and an absurd work, by Dr. J. W. Hood, of Kentucky, was issued setting forth a theory that all abdominal diseases are caused by displacement of the abdominal organs, and curable by pads, trusses, and supporters. In addition to these, the following also appeared that year: a small volume on Bandaging and other operations in Minor Surgery, by Dr. F. W. Sargent; a Compendium of the various branches of medical science, by Drs. J. Neill and F. G. Smith; a Handbook of Surgery, by Dr. J. Neill; Lectures on Yellow Fever, by Dr. John Hastings, U. S. A.; a Medical Chemistry for the use of Students, by Dr. D. P. Gardner; an essay on epidemic meningitis, by Dr. S. Ames; and a dictionary of dental surgery and medical terminology, by Dr. Chapin Harris.

² The following also appeared in 1849: a small volume on Epidemic Cholera, by Dr. C. B. Coventry; a Treatise on the Diseases of the South, by Dr. G. McGowan; Surgical Essays and Cases, by Dr. D. L. Rogers; and an Essay on Respiration and its effects, by Dr. E. Willard. The Transylvania Journal of Medicine, which had been discontinued, was revived by Dr. Ethelbert L. Dudley for a short time. A paper on Aneurism, by his illustrious uncle, Dr. B. W. Dudley, enriched one of the early numbers of the journal.

Dr. N. S. Davis: a work on the Practice of Surgery, by Dr. J. Hastings; a work on Mental Hygiene, by Dr. Wm. Sweetzer; a Practical Treatise on the Diseases and Injuries of the Urinary Bladder, by Dr. Samuel D. Gross; and a work on Sleep, psychologically considered, with reference to Sensation and Memory, by Dr. B. Fosgate. To this long list must be added a history of Typhoid Fever, as it appeared in Georgetown, Kentucky, by Dr. W. L. Sutton; the American Medical Formulary, by Dr. J. J. Reese; an Encyclopædia of Chemistry, by Dr. Jas. C. Booth; and a treatise by Dr. Thomas E. Bond, on Dental Medicine, which is a compendium of Medical Science as connected with the study of Dental Surgery. In the same year four medical journals were started: the New Hampshire Journal of Medicine, at Concord, edited by Dr. H. Parker; the Western Medico-Chirurgical Journal, at Keokuk, edited by Drs. J. F. Sandford and S. G. Armor; the Stethoscope and Virginia Medical Gazette, at Richmond, edited by Dr. F. C. Gooch; and the Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, edited by Dr. W. K. Bowling.

This list embraces several works of great labor and uncommon merit. The Observations of Meigs, like all his other contributions to Medical Science, abound in original views, at the same time practical and judicious. The work of Sweetzer is suggestive and ingenious; that of Gross, elaborate and exhaustive; but foremost among them all, in research, in breadth of scientific view, and in the wide scope of observations recorded, is the treatise of Drake. The author had planned his work when a young physician, even before taking his degree in Medicine, and had been collecting materials for its composition during the term of an ordinary lifetime. It is not made up, as so many books in all ages have been, of matter borrowed from other books, but of facts collected by himself, in a long experience, during protracted journeys, and from original observers. In the accomplishment of his design he traversed the whole Mississippi Valley, tracing the causes of its diseases from the Northern Lakes to Cape Sable. He sought to indicate in his treatise whatever there was that was distinctive in the complaints of the region of which he was writing, as induced by climate, race, mode of living, and the other agencies that modify disease. The result of his extended researches was given in two ample volumes, the second of which was published in 1854, two years after his death. That in every sense the production is a great one, has been conceded by all writers who have noticed the work; and yet it never acquired general popularity, and is now comparatively disregarded. A quarter of a century has passed away since it appeared, and no second edition has been called for by the profession. It is not of a form to be used as a text-book by students, and it must be owned that it is not quite suited to the practitioner as a book of reference. But it is a vast repository of facts, upon which all future writers must hereafter draw who would give an account of the climate, topography, and diseases of the great valley to which it relates. It can hardly be doubted that it belongs to a class of works, once described by Dr. Drake himself, that "lie embalmed in the truths with which they are penetrated, and cannot decay: but like the bodies of kings and philosophers steeped in spices, and deposited in the catacombs, are found only in unfrequented closets and alcoves of libraries."

The most important works published in 1851 were a volume of lectures on *Materia Medica*, by Dr. John B. Beck, prepared for the press after his death, by his friend, Dr. R. C. Gilman; and a system of Operative Surgery, by Dr. H. H. Smith, based on the practice of the surgeons of

the United States, and comprising a bibliographical index and historical record of many of their operations during a period of two hundred years. Besides these, a history of the Massachusetts General Hospital was contributed by Dr. N. O. Bowditch.¹ Dr. M. L. Linton, of the University of St. Louis, also made this year a contribution which is worthy of notice, his *Outlines of General Pathology*; an unpretending little volume, but abounding in sound medical philosophy, and written in a lucid, vigorous style.

Dr. Austin Flint, in 1852, commenced a series of publications, the result of his observations of disease in hospitals and private practice, which have placed him at the head of American writers on practical medicine. That year he issued a volume of *Clinical Reports on Continued fever*, based on an analysis of 164 cases. The same year, Dr. R. U. Piper published an elaborate work on *Operative Surgery*, containing more than 1900 engravings, with explanatory text; to which is appended an interesting chapter on the use of Ether in Surgery, written by Dr. Henry J. Bigelow. This year, too, was produced a volume of essays written in a charming style, by Dr. S. H. Dickson, on *Life, Sleep, and Pain*.²

Dr. William H. Boling, of Alabama, whose various articles on malarious fevers in the periodicals of the day had given him a wide reputation, published, in 1853, an instructive essay on the mechanism and management in Parturition of shoulder presentment. In the same year Dr. Joseph Warrington contributed an *Obstetric Catechism*, containing 2347 questions and answers on obstetrics proper. Dr. C. E. Brown-Séquard commenced in 1853 a series of publications of great interest to physiologists and practitioners. The first was a small volume of experimental researches applied to physiology and pathology. A smaller volume followed in 1855, on the physiology and pathology of the spinal cord; and in 1857 another thin volume appeared, entitled *Researches on Epilepsy*. In 1860 he published a volume of *Lectures on the Physiology and Pathology of the Central Nervous System*, delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons of England; and in 1868 this was followed by another volume of *Lectures on the Diagnosis and Treatment of functional nervous affections*.

In 1854, a volume of substantial merit was produced by Dr. René La Roche, the title of which describes its character: *Pneumonia, its supposed connection, pathological and etiological, with autumnal fevers, including an inquiry into the existence and morbid agency of malaria*. It is a monograph of enduring interest. Other works that enriched our literature also appeared in that year, among which the following are

¹ Dr. Charles Delevy wrote *De la Fièvre pernicieuse de la Nouvelle Orléans*, following this history, in 1859, with a *Précis historique de la Fièvre*. Dr. F. B. Flagg published a work on Ether and Chloroform.

² The following works were also published: *A Treatise on Diseases of the Chest*, by Dr. John A. Swett; *Records of Maculated Typhus, or Ship Fever*, by Dr. J. B. Upham; a *Treatise on Uterine Displacements*, by Dr. W. E. Cole; *Analysis of Physiology*, by Dr. J. J. Reese; *Outlines of the Arteries*, by Dr. John Neill; and a description of a skeleton of the mastodon giganteus, by the veteran anatomist and surgeon, Dr. John C. Warren. Dr. A. Clapp, of New Albany, a man of great attainments in general science as well as in medicine, contributed a valuable synopsis or systematic catalogue of the medicinal plants of the United States, to the American Medical Association, which appeared in its Transactions for that year, and was afterwards issued in a separate volume of more than 200 pages. In 1852 two periodicals were published in New Orleans—the *New Orleans Medical Journal*, and the *Monthly Medical Register*. Since the war, the former has been revived, and is ably conducted by Dr. Samuel M. Bemiss.

conspicuous: a treatise, by Dr. Gross, full and exhaustive, on Foreign Bodies in the Air Passages; Dr. T. G. Richardson's Elements of Human Anatomy, in which the author, as far as he could, has substituted English for the Latin terminology—a manual admirably adapted to the dissecting room; Dr. Bennett Dowler's "Tableau of Yellow Fever" as it prevailed in New Orleans in 1853, with topographical, chronological, and historical sketches of the epidemics of that city since their origin in 1796; and a history of the yellow fever of 1853, in New Orleans, by Dr. E. D. Fenner.¹ Dr. Meigs also added to his other valuable works, this year, a volume written with great force, on the nature, signs, and treatment of childbed fevers, contending against their transmission by contact. And Dr. Jacob Bigelow laid the profession under additional obligation by a volume entitled "Nature in Disease, illustrated in various discourses and Essays," recommending by conclusive arguments the conservative medicine, toward which the professional mind of the age is so strongly tending. A volume was published in 1854, by Dr. A. S. Piggott, entitled Dental Chemistry and Metallurgy, which was of much use to practitioners of Dentistry.

The publications of 1855 were, many of them, of very great excellence and interest. The Letters of Dr. James Jackson to a Young Physician, in a small volume, to which he added a second series in 1860, are adapted to the wants of the inexperienced of every age, and may be read with profit by all young practitioners. A small work, by Dr. Hugh L. Hodge, on criminal abortion, discusses a subject, the interest of which is likely to increase with time. The treatise on Medical Jurisprudence, by Francis Wharton, Esq., and Dr. Moreton Stillé, stands on a level with the great work of Beck. The joint production of a learned jurist and an able physician, it possesses merits not likely to be found in a work by a single hand. It is a noble monument to the memory of its medical contributor, who died almost at the moment when the last sheets of his work were issuing from the press. Gifted, cultivated, and laborious, Stillé, in his short life, accomplished a work of which his profession is justly proud, and which only increases the regret at his early death. The monograph on the Diseases affecting the Respiratory Organs, by Dr. Flint, was in the line of his work on Continued Fever, and worthy of it. The tract of Dr. O. W. Holmes, entitled Puerperal Fever as a Private Pestilence, presents strong reasons for believing in the contagiousness of the disease. It was pronounced by Ramsbotham, when it came out, "a masterly performance." Dr. Zina Pitcher, in a paper on the Induction of Puerperal Fever by Inoculation, so called, takes the opposite side of the question, which he supports by a great array of facts. An Army Meteorological Register, for twelve years, originating from an office suggested by Hon. J. C. Calhoun, while Secretary of War, and prepared under the direction of Surgeon-General Thomas Lawson, is of value. Dr. E. R. Peaslee wrote this year a valuable work on Croup, and a work for students on Chemistry was issued by Dr. B. Howard Rand.

But the great work of this year was that on Yellow Fever, by Dr. La Roche. The American press has given birth to no original work superior to it in research or learning. As a monograph on one of the most

¹ To this list must be added a text-book of Anatomy, for the use especially of students of Dental Surgery, by Dr. R. Handy, of the Dental College of Baltimore; a volume of Lectures on pulmonary consumption, by Dr. T. Thompson; Letters on Yellow Fever, Cholera, and Quarantine, by A. F. Vaché; and a work on Human Physiology, by Dr. Worthington Hooker, designed for Colleges and general reading.

formidable of the epidemics that afflict our race, it may be doubted whether anything more exhaustive is contained in any language. It was the production of a laborious student, a thorough medical scholar, and an amiable and accomplished gentleman.

In 1855, the Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal, under the care of Drs. Westmoreland and Batty, was set on foot, and in the same year a History of the American Medical Association was written by Dr. N. S. Davis.¹

The following year was also productive of valuable additions to the stock of our literature. Professor Edward Parrish, of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, wrote an introduction to practical pharmaeay, which was useful in that department of medicine; an original and most able work on Human Physiology, statistical and dynamical, was contributed by Dr. John W. Draper, who before had written a remarkable treatise on the forces which produce the organization of plants, in which he proposed a simple and ingenious theory of the capillary circulation. Dr. George B. Wood communicated the results of his matured researches concerning medicines, in his able treatise on Therapeutics and Pharmacology, or *Materia Medica*, which has long been an authority in the profession. A prize essay of great interest was published by Dr. George H. Lyman, giving the history and statistics of Ovariotomy, and the circumstances under which the operation may be regarded as safe and expedient. A Treatise on Surgery, the result of much labor, by Dr. H. H. Smith, was added to our literature on that subject. A history of the medical profession in ancient times was contributed by Dr. John Watson. Dr. James Stewart produced a practical treatise on the Diseases of Children. Dr. Isaac Taylor, in a short paper, called the attention of the profession to the sun-burnt appearance of the skin as an early diagnostic symptom of supra-renal capsule disease. Dr. J. M. Allen added another to the list of our anatomical works, in his Practical Anatomist. The North American Medico-Chirurgical Review, which originated in Louisville, but was shortly afterward transferred to Philadelphia, was added by Drs. Gross and Richardson to our long list of medical journals.²

The question of the original unity of the human race has been a good deal discussed in our country since the appearance of Dr. S. S. Smith's work on the subject, and in 1857 a treatise of much bulk and labor was contributed by Drs. Nott and Gliddon, *On the Indigenous Races of the Earth*, of the merits of which various opinions have been expressed, according to the preconceived notions of the writers. Dr. E. R. Peaslee in this year published a work on Human Histology, to which, in 1872, he added one of great interest, on Ovarian Tumors. Dr. Paul F. Eve did the profession a service by collecting into a volume many Remarkable Cases in Surgery, showing into what errors surgeons of experience and

¹ An Essay on Malignant Cholera, by Dr. B. M. Byrne; the Practitioner's Pharmacopœia, by Dr. J. Foote; a Discourse, by Dr. J. H. Griscom, on the relation between the people and the Science of Medicine; and a volume, by Drs. Comstock and Comings, on Physiology, chiefly taken without acknowledgment from the writings of Carpenter, were also among the publications of 1855.

² Dr. Joseph Jones published in this year some investigations relative to American Vertebrata; and Dr. M. L. Knapp wrote an interesting inquiry into the cause of Nurse's Sore Mouth, and in the following year produced a rambling treatise, styled Researches as to the Pathology and Origin of Epidemics, tracing all to the existence of a scorbutic taint. Dr. Benjamin Haskell also published this year some ingenious Essays on the physiology of the nervous system, with an appendix on hydrophobia, and the Medical and Surgical Reporter, under the editorial care of Dr. S. W. Butler, took its place among our periodicals.

skill may fall, and under what extremities patients may sometimes recover. This year, also, was published an interesting Catalogue of Crania, by Dr. J. Aitken Meigs. But a more important contribution to our literature was made by Dr. H. F. Campbell, in an essay to which a prize was awarded by the American Medical Association, On the Excito-Secretory System of Nerves. In the views advanced on this subject, Dr. Marshall Hall admitted that Dr. C. had anticipated him, as well as M. Claude Bernard.

The succeeding year two large octavo volumes on *Materia Medica*, full of useful matter, were issued by Dr. William Tully; a text-book on vegetable and animal physiology was produced by Dr. H. Goadby, and an interesting monograph on Scarlatina, by Dr. Caspar Morris, appeared in a new dress, having been first issued some years before; a work, too, on the diseases of the urinary organs, which was followed by one, in 1861, on the effects of the retention of the elements of urine in the blood, was published by Dr. W. W. Morland.¹ A volume of lectures on Surgery, delivered by Prof. E. Geddings, of the Medical College of Charleston, was published in 1858. It is to be regretted that the learned and able author has not followed up his work.

In 1859, the treatise of Dr. John C. Dalton, on Physiology, which still maintains its place as a text-book in our schools, was published, and is not likely to be soon superseded. It is a work which has advanced physiological science, and in which the student finds a condensed but lucid summary of its truths, communicated in a pleasing style. With it appeared another work which has conferred lustre upon the medical literature of our country, the learned and able *System of Surgery*, by Dr. Samuel D. Gross. With an industry truly indefatigable, the author has continued to add to its successive editions, until he has made it one of the most thorough systems of surgery to be found in any language. Dr. Austin Flint, the same year, produced a practical treatise on the Diseases of the Heart, which ranks among the high authorities on that subject.

A volume of essays, written by his gifted father, was published this year by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell. In these essays, the author appears as a chemist and philosopher, and shows that, if he had continued his labors, so successfully begun in that direction, he might have attained a high rank among the scientific men of his time. His researches concerning the diffusion of gases gave him a glimpse of some of the most interesting discoveries of which modern chemistry can boast.²

In 1860 a number of excellent books were produced, foremost of which in research and learning, as well as in size, is the treatise of Dr. Alfred Stillé, on *Therapeutics and Materia Medica*. Of the progress of our medi-

¹ Valuable contributions to operative surgery and surgical pathology were made this year by Dr. J. M. Carnochan, and Dr. Horace Green published selections from favorite prescriptions of living American practitioners. The following journals were set on foot in 1858: The Chicago Medical Journal, by Dr. J. Adams Allen; the Cincinnati Lancet and Observer, by Dr. E. B. Stevens; and the Cincinnati Medical News, by Dr. J. A. Thacker. A little work was also published by Dr. Jacob Bigelow, entitled *Brief Expositions of Practical Midwifery*, to which is prefixed the *Paradise of Doctors*.

² Dr. E. J. Coxe wrote, this year, on the Yellow Fever of New Orleans; Dr. V. M. Francis published a Thesis on Hospital Hygiene, and a work styled Contributions to Midwifery; the Diseases of Children was issued by Drs. Noegerath and Jacobi; Dr. J. J. Moorman wrote an account of the Virginia Springs and the Springs of the South-West, which was of great value to invalids in search of watering-places. A small treatise was published by Dr. John M. Watson, of the University of Nashville, on trismus nascentium, which he traces to irritation of the umbilicus in the young child. Dr. James E. Reeves, the same year, published a Practical Treatise on Enteric Fever.

cal literature during the century, we could hardly point to any evidence more conclusive than that afforded by a comparison of this scientific work with the elementary treatises on the same subject written forty years before. We are quite willing that by it the world shall judge of American Medical authorship. The "Practical Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations," by Dr. Frank Hastings Hamilton, has become a standard authority on the subject.¹ An Elementary Treatise on Anatomy was prepared by the learned Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Joseph Leidy. Dr. Henry Hartshorne published "Memoranda Medica," or note-book of medical principles. A very instructive work was issued by Dr. Hugh L. Hodge, on the diseases peculiar to females, including displacements of the uterus. And among the "Contributions" of the Smithsonian Institution appeared an original paper of much interest, by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, on the venom of the rattlesnake.²

Of the publications of 1861, the most important was a work on the principles and practice of Obstetrics, by Dr. Gunning S. Bedford, of the University of New York. But the American Medical Biography, edited by Dr. Samuel D. Gross, has also high claims upon the profession, and ought to be extended. It is a work which must be of interest to every American physician, as a record of the lives of men who have done honor to the profession. Dr. Gross, the same year, produced an excellent manual of military surgery. A "Manual of Military Surgery," was also produced by Dr. J. Julian Chisholm, at Columbia, South Carolina, and was the text-book of the surgeons of the Confederate army during the civil war. And one on the same subject was contributed by Drs. Blackman and Tripler.³

The effect of the civil war in repressing our literature, was manifest in 1862, in the course of which very few original books were published. One of these was the Medical History of the Philadelphia Almshouse, by Dr. D. Hayes Agnew; a second was a treatise, by Dr. A. Jacobi, on dentition and its derangements; and a third was a practical guide to diseases of the eye, by Dr. H. W. Williams. Dr. Stephen Smith added an opportune hand-book on surgical operations.

In 1863, the number was also small. They were a Manual of the institutes of military surgery, by Dr. J. Ordronaux; a manual of minor surgery, by Dr. J. H. Packard, and the practice of surgery for field and hospital, by Dr. E. Warren. Dr. J. J. Woodward made a practical and substantial contribution to military medicine, in a volume on the chief

¹ A useful medico-legal treatise on Malpractice was written by Dr. John J. Elwell. Dr. Samuel W. Francis presented to the profession a report of the Clinical Lectures of Dr. Valentine Mott in the University of New York.

² A Catalogue of the Pathological Cabinet of New York Hospital, classified and arranged, was published this year by Dr. Robert Ray, Jr., and also an epitome of medicine and surgery, by Dr. W. S. Wells. Dr. Edward Warren, in 1860, published an interesting biography of Dr. John C. Warren. Two new medical journals were also projected: the Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal, edited by Dr. Henry Gibbons, and the Chicago Medical Examiner, edited by Drs. N. S. and F. H. Davis.

³ Besides these, the following works also appeared in 1861: A Practical Treatise on Phthisis Pulmonalis, by Dr. L. M. Lawson, of Cincinnati; a work by Dr. R. M. Hodges, on Excision of the Joints; one by C. H. Jackson, on Etherization; a sprightly paper on Currents and Counter-currents in Medical Science, by Dr. O. W. Holmes; a work on Placenta Praevia, by Dr. William Reid; and two valuable Essays, by Dr. Fordyce Barker, one on an Effort to shorten the first stage of Labor; the other on the use of anæsthetics in Midwifery. Dr. Edwin R. Maxson also published this year a volume on the Practice of Medicine, and, in 1868, he published an account of Hospitals, British, French, and American.

camp diseases of the U. S. armies as observed during the war of the rebellion.

In 1864, an important work on Gunshot Wounds and Injuries of Nerves was contributed by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell and Drs. Morehouse and Keen; and in this year the following works also appeared: Lectures on Venereal Diseases, by Dr. William A. Hammond; a Medical Dictionary, by Dr. J. Thomas; a paper on the puerperal disease, by Dr. B. F. Barker; a work by Dr. Bartholow on disinfection, which was followed in 1867 by a manual on enlisting and discharging Soldiers, and in 1868 by a work on spermatorrhœa; a prize-essay by Dr. H. F. Damon, on leucocythaemia; a volume of Medical and Surgical Essays, by Dr. W. A. Hammond; a "Mémoire sur la fièvre paludienne," by Dr. J. C. Faget; and an account, by Dr. J. O'Reilly, of the Nervous and venous connection between the Mother and the Fœtus.

The following is a list of the publications in 1865: a Monograph on glycerin, by Dr. H. Hartshorne; the Book of Prescriptions, by Dr. Henry Beasley; a Treatise on Military Surgery and Hygiene, by Dr. F. H. Hamilton; a Vest-pocket Medical Lexicon, by Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa; a Treatise on the Diseases and Accidents incident to Women, by Dr. W. H. Byford; and Elements of Materia Medica for the use of students, by Dr. John B. Biddle. The last two are substantial additions to our practical medical literature. No more eligible text-book than Dr. Biddle's has yet been written; and the volume by Dr. Byford illustrates a class of affections which he has studied with success. To this list we have to add the able work of Dr. W. H. Van Buren on the Surgical Diseases of the Genito-Urinary Organs, and his contributions to Practical Surgery; and the Lectures of Dr. J. H. Packard on inflammation.¹

Cholera prevailed in the United States in 1866, and a number of works were written concerning the epidemic; but besides these, that year was productive of some of the best contributions made by American writers to medical science. The work of Dr. Austin Flint, on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, is entitled to the first place among our treatises on that subject. It is the production of a practical, able, and patient observer, who speaks from long clinical experience, and is written in a clear, direct, concise style, and with a fulness that leaves nothing to be desired. And by the side of this admirable work deserves to stand the treatise of Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., on Physiology, the first volume of which appeared about the same time, and which has since been completed in five volumes. Few works of equal merit to these, the productions of father and son, have proceeded from American authors. Another publication of that year possessing great value was the treatise of Dr. J. M. Da Costa, on Medical Diagnosis, a work with which our students of medicine can hardly dispense; and one of equal value to the practitioner was that of Dr. J. Marion Sims, entitled Clinical Notes on Uterine Surgery, with special reference to the sterile condition; the first treatise written in our language on the surgery of the uterus.²

¹ In this year the following works too appeared: A Sanitary Code for Cities, by Dr. H. G. Clarke; a volume on Hypodermic Injections, by Dr. Antoine Ruppaner; and the New York Medical Journal, edited at first by Dr. W. A. Hammond, and subsequently by Drs. J. B. Hunter and W. T. Lusk.

² A treatise appeared this year, by Dr. J. W. Wright, on Psychology, and one by Dr. S. G. Webber, on cerebro-spinal meningitis. Dr. A. C. Garratt also contributed one on electro-therapeutics, and three new journals of medicine were projected—the Detroit Review of Medicine, by Drs. Conner and Lyons; the New York Medical Record, by Dr. Geo. F. Shrady,

Dr. Henry Hartshorne in 1867 produced a volume which has met with much professional approbation, entitled *Essentials of the Principles and Practice of Medicine*. A very able work of an original character, on the micro-chemistry of poisons, was produced by Dr. Theo. G. Wormley. Dr. J. Solis Cohen contributed a valuable volume on Inhalation, its therapeutics and practice. One was produced on injuries of the Spine, by Dr. John Ashurst, Jr., containing an analysis of nearly four hundred cases. Drs. Francis Minot and Charles Homans, Secretaries of the Society, published a volume of Extracts from the Transactions of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, with Papers read before the Society. The lamented Dr. J. Mason Warren contributed a valuable volume of *Surgical Observations, with Cases and Operations*. Dr. N. R. Smith wrote on the treatment of fractures of the lower extremities, by the use of the anterior suspensory apparatus; and Dr. John H. Packard published *Notes on Fractures of the Upper Extremity*. A volume of Researches upon Spurious Vaccination was contributed by Dr. Joseph E. Jones. Dr. Henry J. Bigelow published a practical paper on Ununited Fractures successfully treated; and Dr. B. Howard Rand contributed an elementary work on Chemistry. A work of much labor was issued under the editorial supervision of Dr. A. Flint, entitled *Contributions relating to the Causation and Prevention of Disease, and to Camp Diseases*, together with a report of the diseases, etc., among the prisoners at Andersonville. A large volume, entitled *Mechanical Therapeutics*, a treatise on surgical appliances, was produced by Dr. Philip S. Wales, at Philadelphia. A Monograph on *Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis*, treating ably of the subject, was issued by Dr. Alfred Stillé. Dr. S. H. Dickson made a valuable contribution to *Studies in Pathology and Therapeutics*; and an interesting work on the *Medical Use of Electricity* was produced by Drs. George M. Beard and A. D. Rockwell. To which long catalogue of publications for that year we have to add the *Leavenworth Medical Herald*, by Dr. Tiffen Sinks, and the *Medical Archives*, by Dr. J. C. Whitehill, published at St. Louis.¹

In 1868 three important works were produced on the diseases and accidents incident to females: an *Obstetric Clinic*, by Dr. George T. Elliot; a *Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Women*, by Dr. T. Gaillard Thomas; and a work on *Vesico-vaginal Fistula*, by Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet. Dr. Dalton wrote a *Treatise on Physiology and Hygiene*, for schools, families, and colleges; a volume of *Reports of the Pennsylvania Hospital*, was edited and issued by Dr. Da Costa and Dr. W. Hunt; and a work on *Physical Diagnosis* was published by Dr. Alfred Loomis.²

and the Richmond (now Richmond and Louisville) *Medical Journal*, by Dr. E. S. Gaillard, editor and proprietor. This year the following works also were published: *Contributions to bone and nerve Surgery*, by Dr. J. C. Nott; a small treatise on food and digestion, by Dr. Howard Townsend; *Lectures on Orthopedic Surgery*, by Dr. L. Bauer; a small treatise on Orthopedics, by Dr. D. Prince, followed, in 1871, by one on Plastics; and works of greater or less length on *Cholera*, by Drs. J. C. Peters, R. Nelson, E. Whitney, F. A. Burrall, Palmer, Fletcher, and Henry Hartshorne.

¹ Two works on conservative surgery, one by Dr. H. G. Davis, and another by Dr. A. G. Walter, appeared in 1867, and with them a *Manual of Examinations*, by Dr. J. L. Ludlow; a paper on *Epidemic Cholera*, by Dr. G. Hurt; a *Treatise on Polypus of the Ear*, by Dr. Edward H. Clark; a work by Dr. D. Wooster, on *Diseases of the Heart*, and a *Thesis on Aneurism of the Aorta*, by Dr. E. Souchong.

² Beside these the following also appeared: *The Law of Human Increase, or Population based on Physiology and Psychology*, by Dr. Nathan Allen; a *Practical Anatomy*, by Dr. D. H. Agnew, who followed it in 1873 by a work on *laceration of the perineum*; a *Treatise*, by Dr. W. Bodenhamer, on *Diseases of the Rectum*; a *Dissertation*, by Drs. Edes,

The following list comprises the most noted publications of 1869: A Treatise on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood, by Dr. J. Lewis Smith; a Conspectus of the Medical Sciences, by Dr. H. Hartshorne; Outlines of Comparative Anatomy and Medical Zoology, by Dr. Harrison Allen; a History of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, by Dr. Joseph Carson; the Intermarriage of Relations, by Dr. Nathan Allen; a treatise, by Dr. J. S. Lambert, on Longevity; Contribution to the Medical History of the United States, by Dr. J. M. Toner; the Mechanism of Dislocation and Fracture of the Hip, by Dr. H. J. Bigelow; an essay on External Perineal Urethrotomy, by Dr. J. W. S. Gouley; a volume on the Jurisprudence of Medicine, in its relations to the law of contracts, by Dr. Ordronaux; a work, in quarto, on Amputation of the Cervix Uteri in certain cases, by Dr. Isaac E. Taylor; a compend of *Materia Medica*, by Dr. John C. Riley, and a volume on the physiology and pathology of the sympathetic nervous system, by Dr. Robert T. Edes. In addition to these, a small treatise was written on *Veratrum Viride*, by Dr. R. Amory; one on physical culture in Amherst College, was contributed by Dr. N. Allen; and one, of much greater size, on the Principles of Naval Staff Rank and its History for over half a century, by a Surgeon in the U. S. Navy. The Archives of Ophthalmology, edited by Profs. Knapp and Moos, and the Oregon Medical and Surgical Journal were projected this year.

The most important contributions in 1870, were the Surgical Memoirs of the War of the Rebellion, which when completed will form the most magnificent work pertaining to medicine that our country has produced; and the Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Obstetrics, by Dr. W. H. Byford, which stands on a level with the best of a class of works in which the profession of America is conceded to have excelled. The Lectures on the Diseases of the Rectum, by Dr. W. H. Van Buren, and the Hand-book of Operative Surgery, by Dr. J. H. Packard are valuable contributions to practical surgery; as are also the Bellevue and Charity Hospital Reports; the Medical and Surgical Reports of the Boston City Hospital, and the work of Dr. J. A. Lidell on wounds of the blood-vessels.¹

The publications of the Surgeon General's Office were continued in 1871, and some very able works appeared with them, at the head of which professional opinion ranks the Principles and Practice of Surgery,

Hibbard, and Spare, on Nature and Time in Disease; a posthumous work on Electro-Physiology, by Dr. Morgan, edited by Dr. Hammond; and the Principles and Practice of Laryngoscopy, by Dr. A. Ruppaner. The American Journal of Obstetrics, edited by Dr. B. F. Dawson, was also added to the list of our serials.

¹ An excellent little Manual of the Urine was published by Dr. A. Flint, Jr.; and an interesting tract styled "New Facts and Remarks concerning Idiocy" was issued by Dr. Edward Seguin. The Microscopical Anatomy of the Liver was illustrated by Dr. H. D. Schmidt, in an article in the New Orleans Medical Journal, which was afterwards issued in a separate form; and a useful treatise was produced, on naval hygiene, by Dr. Joseph G. Wilson and Dr. Albert C. Gorgas; in addition to which Dr. M. Clymer published valuable notes on the physiology and pathology of the nervous system; Dr. J. C. Hutchison contributed a small treatise on physiology and hygiene; and Dr. L. H. Morgan published a system of consanguinity of the human family. The new journals set on foot in 1870 were the Clinic, at Cincinnati, by Dr. J. T. Whittaker; the Philadelphia Medical Times, edited by Dr. H. C. Wood; the Michigan University Medical Review, by Drs. Cheever, Rose, Prescott, and Frothingham; the American Journal of Syphiliography, by Dr. M. H. Henry; and the American Practitioner, by Dr. David W. Yandell and Dr. Theophilus Parvin—a continuation of the Western Journal of Medicine, which was for some years conducted by Prof. Parvin at Indianapolis. The Photographic Review of Medicine and Surgery was also set on foot.

by Dr. John Ashurst, Jr. The treatise of Dr. W. A. Hammond, on Nervous Diseases, is also a graceful addition to our professional literature, albeit his readers may not always obtain the gratifying results from remedies reported as occurring in his practice. The Report to the Surgeon General's Office of the surgical cases in the army of the United States from 1865 to 1871, is an invaluable storehouse of facts; and eminently useful also, for its statistics, is the first annual Report of the Board of Health Department of New York.¹

In 1872, a volume was produced by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell on Injuries to the Nerves, and their consequences, which is esteemed one of the most valuable contributions to surgical science made by an American writer. An elaborate work on ovarian tumors was issued by Dr. E. R. Peaslee. Dr. Gurdon Buck illustrated lithotomy and lithotrity by a number of cases in a brief memoir on the subject. Dr. Thomas M. Markoe wrote an able treatise on diseases of the bones, and Dr. J. W. S. Gouley contributed one on the diseases of the genito-urinary organs, which has been much commended. The little volume of Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr., on Thermic Fever or Sunstroke, is scientific and practical, the production of a mind trained and adapted to philosophical investigation. With it appeared his Year Book of Therapeutics, Pharmacy, and the allied sciences. A volume of clinical lectures on various important diseases, possessing uncommon excellence, was contributed by Dr. N. S. Davis.² In this year also appeared the last work of the learned and indefatigable Dunglison, who had been called away from his earthly labors, leaving his History of Medicine to be completed by his son Dr. Richard J. Dunglison. This posthumous work of the great medical scholar is a fit companion of his dictionary, by which his name is destined to be transmitted to the latest

¹ A Handbook of Medical Microscopy was a seasonable contribution by Dr. Joseph G. Richardson. Three new journals appeared during the year, viz.: New Remedies, by Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr., at New York; the Kansas City Medical Journal, by E. W. Shaufler; and the Southern Medical Record, at Atlanta, by Drs. Powell and Goldsmith. Dr. B. Joy Jeffries wrote a treatise on the eye in health and disease; Dr. M. L. Holbrook produced one on parturition without pain; Dr. A. L. Gilson wrote on surgery and naval hygiene; and Dr. Joseph Jones appeared in one of his laborious memoirs, giving an account of the clinics at the Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Emergencies, and how to treat them, is the title of a manual by Dr. Joseph W. Howe, of the University of New York, which affords knowledge useful to all; and the work on Bromides, by Dr. Bartholow, was read with interest at a time when the action of these medicines was so much discussed. Internal urethrotomy was discussed in a short paper by Dr. C. H. Mastin; Dr. Allen produced another treatise bearing on vital statistics, entitled Lessons on Population, suggested by Grecian and Roman History. Dr. B. W. Neftel added one on Galvano-Therapeutics, and Drs. Beard and Rockwell brought out their work on the Medical and Surgical uses of Electricity in an enlarged form, rendering it complete as to the present state of that branch of therapeutics. The tenth edition of the Medical Students' Vade mecum, by Dr. George Mendenhall, was issued that year.

² The little works of Drs. Clarke and Amory on the Bromides of potassium and sodium, and Dr. Morrill Wyman on Catarrh or hay fever, are both admirable in their way. A hand-book of post-mortem examinations and of morbid anatomy, by Dr. Francis Deafield, also appeared. The attention of the profession was directed to Earth as a topical application in Surgery, by Dr. Addinell Hewson, in a work on that subject. A Clinical Manual of the Diseases of the Ear was prepared by Dr. Lawrence Turnbull. A brief account of the treatment of the Venereal Disease in the Vienna Hospitals was published by Dr. M. H. Henry. Two excellent little monographs on Diseases of the Skin, and Animal and Vegetable Parasites of the Human Skin, were issued by Dr. B. J. Jeffries; the Ten Laws of Health were illustrated by Dr. J. R. Black; and Dr. J. S. Cohen contributed a practical work on Diseases of the Throat. Dr. J. W. Richardson read a judicious paper on puerperal convulsions to the Medical Society of Tennessee; and Dr. Stephen Smith produced a volume styled Doctor in Medicine, with other papers. The Charleston Medical Journal, which for some time had been suspended, was revived this year by Drs. Porcher and Kinloch.

ages. The medical journals originated in 1872 were the *Western Lancet*, at San Francisco, by Drs. Trenor and Babcock; and the *Sanitarian*, edited by Dr. A. N. Bell, at New York.¹

In 1873 a number of valuable works were published, prominent among which was *Contributions to Surgery*, by that faithful worker and accomplished medical scholar, Dr. George W. Norris. A handsome volume of superior merit on ovarian tumors was brought out by Dr. Washington L. Atlee, and Dr. John A. Lidell produced one on a cleft. A volume of clinical lectures on diseases of the nervous system swelled the contributions of Dr. W. A. Hammond to medical science. A volume of huge proportions was written by Dr. James E. Garretson on the somewhat limited subject of oral surgery, and Dr. Isaac Ray published one entitled *Contributions to Mental Pathology*.

In 1874, a work possessing some novel and attractive features was issued by Dr. Horatio C. Wood, Jr., on *Therapeutics, Materia Medica, and Toxicology*. The author devotes much more space than any previous writer has done to the physiological action of medicines, facts bearing upon which he has collected with great industry from every accessible source. This departure of Dr. Wood from the old beaten track of writers on *materia medica* imparts unusual interest to his pages. The other works of this year were a treatise by Dr. R. A. Gunn, on the Venereal Disease, and a small volume on Croup, by Dr. J. Solis Cohen.²

In 1875, an exhaustive volume was issued on the Epidemic Cholera of 1873. It was the joint production of Drs. Ely McClellan, J. C. Peters, J. M. Woodworth, and J. S. Billings, prepared by order of the General Government. No more thorough discussion of the etiology of cholera is to be found in any American work, and, as a whole, it will take its place with the foremost of the many volumes called forth in our country by that pestilence. The work of Dr. Loomis on the Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, notwithstanding the fulness with which the subject had been treated in earlier works, was an acceptable contribution. A volume was published by Dr. R. W. Taylor on *Syphilitic Lesions of the Osseous System*. Dr. C. S. Fenner contributed a work on Vision, its optical defects, and the adaptation of Spectacles. A work on pulmonary tuberculosis was brought out by Dr. Addison P. Dutcher. Dr. W. B. Atkinson issued a small but practical volume, entitled *Hints in the Obstetric Procedure*. Dr. James E. Reeves established, at Wheeling, a journal styled the *West Virginia Medical Student*. Two volumes of immense labor, made up of Statistics, medical and anthropological, of the Provost-Marshall-General's Bureau, were prepared by Dr. J. K. Baxter; and Dr. B. J. Cotting produced a volume of medical addresses.

The works issued in the first months of 1876 belong to the century we are commemorating. Of these, one was a characteristic volume of medical and surgical memoirs, by Dr. Joseph Jones, the first of an elaborate series which the author contemplates. This treats of many subjects, and

¹ Dr. H. V. W. Sweringen also added a pharmaceutical lexicon; Dr. M. A. Milland wrote a work on civil mal-practice; Dr. D. B. St. J. Roosa produced a treatise on diseases of the ear; Dr. Prince published a report on galvano-therapeutics, and Dr. Henry G. Piflard wrote a little work on urinary analysis.

² Besides these the following were contributed: A treatise by Dr. A. D. Williamson on diseases of the ear; one on the "breath and fetid odors," by Dr. J. W. Howe; one by Dr. E. Holden on the Sphygmograph; a manual of toxicology, by Dr. J. J. Reese, and a small volume by Dr. Thomas C. Minor on erysipelas and childbed fever. A new journal, the *Virginia Monthly*, was also started by Dr. L. B. Edwards, at Richmond, and one, the *Medical Times*, at Louisville, by Dr. E. S. Gaillard.

with a patient industry seldom shown by native writers. Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., issued a splendid volume, comprising the substance of his five volumes on physiology, intended as a text-book for students. A work on extra-uterine pregnancy was produced by Dr. John S. Parry, whose early death the profession was called on to deplore soon after the appearance of his work, giving so much proof of his ability to enrich his profession. Two works were contributed by Dr. Austin Flint, a monograph on Phthisis, and a small volume of essays on Conservative Medicine, works worthy of the fame of their admired author. Dr. Lewis A. Sayre added to the productions of the century a volume, abundantly illustrated, on orthopædic surgery and diseases of the joints, which has already been translated into more than one foreign language. A new journal, too, was added to our long list of periodicals, the Louisville Medical News, a weekly publication, edited by Dr. Richard O. Cowling and Dr. William H. Galt, writers of wit as well as learning, whose keen satire of abuses in medical schools will cause their work to be remembered as one of the most useful of its period.

This retrospect of our literature ought not to be concluded without a reference to the publications of the various medical societies of our country. The Transactions of the great National Association have been mentioned; but there are societies in nearly all the States of the Union which annually send forth volumes of greater or less bulk, containing papers of lasting interest. They began as far back as 1788, when the Medical Society of New Haven County, Conn., issued a volume of "Cases and Observations." This was followed, in 1793, by a volume from the Philadelphia College of Physicians. Massachusetts has been for seventy years sending out valuable communications through her societies. The Medical Society of the State of New York, too, has for more than half a century been making contributions to medical science. The effect of these societies, not only upon the literature, but upon the tone of the profession, is everywhere felt to have been most salutary.

The reports of the lunatic asylums, now founded in all but a few of the States, are also to be mentioned as works which have enriched our professional literature. It was a sagacious remark of the Governor of Kentucky, General Adair, in his message urging upon the legislature the establishment of an asylum at Lexington, that "the hospital would help the medical school, which would return the obligation by improving the hospital system, making discoveries in treatment." Since the day that medical men were first placed over these institutions, it is a fact conceded by all that a steady improvement has been going on, as well in the therapeutic treatment of their inmates as in their whole administration. The annual communications of Earle, Kirkbride, and others who have labored so successfully in psychological medicine, have received their full measure of applause.

As forming a voluminous branch of our literature, the introductory lectures published at the opening of the numerous schools of the country each autumn, deserve a passing notice. Many of these efforts are worthy of preservation, as the offspring of the best minds in the American profession; but others are "open to severe comment," as was remarked by Dr. Holmes thirty years ago, who then added that "turgid and extravagant attempts at eloquence, a fondness for effete Latin quotations, a parade of scholastic terms where simple ones only are called for, are the common faults of these productions."

In reviewing the literature of medicine in the United States, the first fact that will strike the mind of the reader, perhaps, is the very large proportion of the works that have emanated from the medical schools. Another that must occur to every reader is the disproportion between monographs and the manuals written for the use of students. Teachers have both greater leisure and greater facilities than others of the profession for making books, as they are also more likely to find sale for them; and they write text-books rather than monographs, because students demand them. But, in the nature of things, such productions are short lived. The manual that gives a fair view of its subject to-day, must fall short of representing it to-morrow, and yields of necessity to a later system. Mundinus, when medical science stood still, held his place as a text-book on anatomy in the medical schools of Italy two hundred years. Wistar, who stood his ground longer than any of our text-books, hardly kept his place thirty years; and as to those that have succeeded him, "clouds that rake the mountain summit" scarcely follow each other faster than they have followed one another as popular favorites.

The growth of our periodical literature has been unprecedented. In 1848, the committee on medical literature reported to the Medical Association, that the number of journals in the United States was about twenty. They had been fifty years reaching that number; but in a little more than half that time their number has been doubled. Since the origin of the first, in 1797, one hundred and ninety-five, including reprints of foreign journals, have been set on foot, of which more than fifty, counting those that relate to pharmacy and dentistry, are still in progress. In all, they have made one thousand six hundred and thirty-seven volumes, a bulk which exceeds that of our monographs and manuals. Hardly any other country in the world has projected so many in the same period, or is now sustaining so large a number. Germany and Austria together have only fifty-seven; France has but fifty-two; Great Britain has but twenty-nine; Italy thirty-one; Holland six; and Spain the same number. Most of our journals have subscribers enough to justify their publication, and to support them in a state of comparative ease, though one is dropped, from time to time, for want of patronage. They have, collectively, a large circle of readers, and tend to a wide diffusion of medical knowledge. The discoveries in any branch of medicine are at once announced by them, and carried in a little while to the door of every reading physician, by which the profession in country and city is placed on comparative equality. And besides these benefits, they increase a taste for reading, and stimulate practitioners to become writers; so that the admitted superfluity of our journalism has been beneficial to the profession, promoting activity among its members, bringing to light much useful matter, exciting greater and more general exertion.

But it cannot be denied that these benefits are secured at the expense of many countervailing evils. To the excess of this literature we are to attribute its deficiencies, which all admit to be greater than those that attach to our books. The aliment that would keep a dozen journals vigorous, divided between four times that number, is barely sufficient to keep many of them alive. The support of too many of them, mental, pecuniary, and literary, is flagrantly inadequate. Not only is their list of subscribers insufficient for anything beyond a feeble existence, but the corps of contributors is too limited to give the necessary variety to their pages. The editor in the hour of pressing need is often obliged to admit

articles which he would not hesitate to reject if he had anything better on hand. But no choice is left him. The inevitable day is coming round when the number must appear; the printer is waiting, and copy must be forthcoming.

Nor is this the only fault of our journalism attributable to its excess. The editors in too many cases devote only such odds and ends of their time to their publications as they can spare from more profitable engagements. Deriving hardly any pecuniary emolument from their journals, they are compelled to look to other employment for subsistence. Nearly all their time and thoughts are engrossed by other duties, and their editorial functions are necessarily performed in a hurried and slovenly manner. They cannot take the time to "edit" their publications in any true sense of that term. They have no leisure for correcting the papers sent them, and for putting them into a shape suitable for the public eye. These contributions, it is safe to say, are for the most part hurriedly written, very often by young, unpractised writers, and while presenting many grains of valuable truth, contain mixed up with them no small amount of chaff which calls for the winnowing hand of the editor. Wanting this friendly office, they appear before a critical public "with all their imperfections on their heads."

Editors are not responsible for either the facts or the opinions of their contributors, but the public has undoubtedly the right to expect that the matter composing their pages shall be free from glaring literary blunders. It has a right to insist, at least, that their own papers shall be written carefully, and with a moderate show of accuracy.

But the department in which our periodical literature stands most in need of improvement is that of critical reviews. In only a few of our journals has this office—one of the most important pertaining to journalism—been properly performed. It is not too much to say that it has been generally neglected. The articles that appear in the critical department rarely aspire to the dignity of reviews, but are, as a rule, mere bibliographical notices, written after the most cursory examination of the books in hand, and often with slight knowledge of their contents. The notices, therefore, are too generally made up of commonplace strictures or indiscriminate praise—mere vague generalities which leave the reader as much as ever in the dark as to the true character and value of the book reviewed.

Still, with all these deficiencies, and others that might be pointed out, our journalism is of a character to commend it to the respect of the profession. No one who has carefully observed its progress in the last fifty years can have a doubt that it is fast outgrowing its defects. Not only are the journals appearing in a mechanical dress more neat and pleasing to the eye, and with fewer typographical errors, but in point of style they are more scholarly than those of half a century ago. The articles are more generally practical, and the selections are almost always made from original sources. If many of them were started in the interest of medical schools (which will hardly be denied), it must be owned that their conductors have generally been observant enough of public opinion to keep that object in the background. Few of them have betrayed a narrow, partisan temper. Hardly an editor has availed himself of his station to defame his professional brethren. While many articles find their way into the journals that are not instructive—many that are carelessly written and marred by many literary blemishes—it is seldom that we meet with one that offends against decency or the proprieties of social life. Personali-

ties, as they are discountenanced by the profession, are almost universally eschewed.

It is easy to see that the rivulet which represented our literature at the beginning of the century just closed, "has swollen into a torrent, augmented into a river, expanded into a sea." When we assumed our position among the sovereignties of the earth, we could hardly point to a single original volume on medicine. We were dependent as a profession almost wholly upon our brethren of the old world for instruction. All our books were the production of foreigners; but we may now claim to be independent of the world. If by any chance we could be cut off from all intercourse with other nations, the authors of America would supply the text-books required by its students, and guides to its practitioners, in every department of the profession. Nor am I assuming too much when I assert that, as lucid exponents of the existing art and science of medicine, as trustworthy companions in the sick-room, as lights in everything relating to the practice of physic, using that term in its widest scope, the works of American physicians are up with the times, and equal to the books which come to us from abroad. And this is said in full view of the fact that in some branches of medical science we have not done our part towards its advancement, while in others we have hardly done anything at all. But whether we compare the later issues of our medical press with its earlier productions, or with analogous works by physicians of the old countries, we find cause for congratulation as to the past, and for high expectations in regard to the future.

